

Report of the NCAB

Subcommittee on Planning and Budget

17 May 1981

Present: Dr. Frederick Seitz, Chairman
Dr. Harold Amos
Dr. Maureen Henderson
Dr. Robert Hickey
Dr. Joseph Katterhagen
Mrs. Rose Kushner
Dr. LaSalle Leffall
Dr. Henry Pitot, Chairman, NCAB
Dr. William Powers
Dr. Janet Rowley
Mr. Morris Schrier

Dr. Vincent DeVita and staff

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and asked Dr. DeVita to review the agenda for the meeting and what he would like the subcommittee to accomplish.
2. Dr. DeVita stated that the meeting would be different from the meetings of the past in several ways:
 - In the past, the subcommittee (and NCAB) have participated primarily in the development of the by-pass budget required by the Cancer Act. This year, the subcommittee will be asked also to review and advise on a more realistic submission which should reflect the administration's philosophy considering current economic conditions.
 - In the past, a variety of tables representing the by-pass budget were developed by NCI staff; then reviewed by the subcommittee at its spring meeting with the NCI Executive Committee; then reviewed again by the full Board at the May or June meeting. At this meeting, the subcommittee would be asked to help develop a series of assumptions/concepts/philosophies - i.e., discuss priorities, areas of emphasis, trends, etc. - which would provide guidance to NCI in the detailed development of the budgets.
 - In the past the subcommittee and the NCAB have been presented mostly with growth budgets. This year, the subcommittee would be asked to provide some assumptions for a flat budget - i.e., if some programs are to be increased, which programs are to be reduced.
3. Dr. DeVita then asked Mr. Hartinger to present a brief history of the by-pass budget.
4. With regard to the future development of the by-pass budget, two options were discussed:

- Continue to develop the budget as the best estimate of the NCI and its advisers as to what the Institute needs to maintain the momentum of the program (i.e., inflation plus modest growth).
 - Use the by-pass budget to identify additional budget increments for high priority programs.
5. The consensus of the subcommittee was that the second option should be used as the model for the by-pass budget, i.e., the identification of special program needs. Asked to give several examples of programs that could be identified for possible incremental increase in a by-pass budget, Dr. DeVita listed ROIs, POIs, Center Core Grants, training, clinical trials, and construction.
 6. Dr. Henderson made a motion to use the by-pass budget to bring the POIs and Center Core Grants up to the recommended levels. The motion was discussed extensively, tabled and then withdrawn, because the subcommittee members did not feel they had adequate information to make this kind of recommendation.
 7. Dr. DeVita proposed that the NCI develop the by-pass budget reflecting additional incremental increases on a program-by-program basis.
 8. The Chairman proposed that this budget be reviewed at a special meeting of the subcommittee in June. When it became apparent that some subcommittee members would find it difficult to attend a June meeting, Dr. Pitot proposed the following:
 - The NCI would provide the subcommittee members with a baseline budget which would reflect an anticipated 7% increase over 1982; and a list of programs for the subcommittee to rank order for possible incremental funding in the by-pass budget. Subcommittee responses would be returned to NCI by mid-June.
 - NCI would synthesize and consolidate subcommittee responses and after review, a decision would be made regarding the need for a June meeting. In any event, the resulting subcommittee recommendations would be used by NCI as guidance in the development of the by-pass budget for OMB submission - this budget would be provided to the subcommittee as soon as possible.
- This proposal was accepted.
9. It was agreed that because of the press of time this year, the procedure described above would be limited to subcommittee participation but that in the future the full NCAB would participate.
 10. It was reaffirmed that the Subcommittee on Planning and Budget continue to schedule meetings concurrent with each NCAB meeting as a minimum and allow for special meetings as required.
 11. With no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

Frederick Seitz
Chairman