Expenditures compared to peers (Figures 17-20):

Growth in expenditures is limited to available resources, such as state funding and tuition. Compared to its Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE) peers, CU-Boulder is $8,953 or 48% below average for the combination of annual state funding per student full-time equivalent and the in-state academic year undergraduate tuition and fee rate. The high point of state funding occurred in FY2003 when CU-Boulder was appropriated $84.7 million. Subsequently, state funds were reduced due to state tax revenue shortfalls. State funding has started to be restored in recent years and is currently at $79.5 million. Restoring state funds to the FY2003 appropriation level, adjusted for inflation and enrollment growth, would require $97 million, $17.5 million higher than our actual level for FY2008.

Expenses by category show "instruction," which has been a priority for CU-Boulder, as comparable to the DHE peers at 90% of peer average. Support and services expenditures are much further behind, at between two-thirds and three-quarters of the peer average.

The campus research portfolio is diverse, which can be beneficial when either federal or non-federal funding streams change. The campus has maintained approximately $260M of annual research expenditures for the past two years. Faculty salaries have been below Association of American Universities (AAU) public university averages for more than a decade, but a dedicated effort to make faculty retention a priority has moved CU-Boulder to within 2% of the average for FY2007. Compensation (salary plus benefits) is 4% under the AAU public average.

Annual gifts and endowment proceeds have increased over the past three years, nearing prior high levels reached in FY2003. Tenure-track faculty numbers have remained steady for 10 years, while enrollments have increased, resulting in a higher student to faculty ratio than in prior years. Recent investments in new tenure lines are an attempt to move the ratio closer to historical levels over the next 5-10 years.

Enrollment (Figures 13-16):

Over 90% of CU-Boulder undergraduates and almost 80% of graduate-level students are classified as full time, so headcount ... enrollments compared to prior years. However, each of these categories has experienced some recovery in the past year.

Financial and Other Measures (Figures 17-24):

The campus research portfolio is diverse, which can be beneficial when either federal or non-federal funding streams change. The campus has maintained approximately $260M of annual research expenditures for the past two years.

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