Minutes, Budget Committee of Academic Senate

Meeting of March 8, 2010 (as approved, March 22, 2010)


Absent with Notice: Louis Romano, James Woodyard.

Absence without Notice: Charles Elder.

Invited guests: Nancy Barrett, Provost; Seymour Wolfson, Senate President; Angela Wisniewski, Senate Secretary; Budget Advisory Committee Chairs (and designees): Hanley Abramson, Pharmaceutical Science, Pharmacy and Health Sciences; Gregor Auner, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Engineering; Allen Batteau, Anthropology, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Robin Boyle, Urban Studies and Planning, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Karl Braunschweig, Music, Fine, Performing and Communication Arts; Sherylyn Briller, Anthropology, Liberal Arts and Sciences; John Corvino, Philosophy, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Farshad Fotouch, Computer Science, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Peter Frade, Fundamental and Applied Sciences, Pharmacy and Health Sciences; Stephen Hillman, Education; Loraleigh Keashly, Communication, Fine, Performing and Communication Arts; Yi-Chi Kong, Immunology and Microbiology, Medicine and Chair, SOM BAC; Gloria Kuhn, Emergency Medicine, Medicine; Andrea Sankar, Anthropology, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Bernhard Schlegel, Chemistry, Liberal Arts and Sciences; James Tucker, Biological Sciences and Geology, Liberal Arts and Sciences; R. Douglas Whitman, Psychology, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Debra Zebari, Nutrition and Food Science, Liberal Arts and Sciences.

*Liaison

1. The meeting began at 11:01 a.m. The minutes of the meetings of Nov. 9, 2009, Dec. 7, 2009, and Feb. 1, 2009, were approved.

2. Presentation by Budget Director. Mr. Kohrman made a presentation dealing with the overall budget challenges and the uncertain level of support from the state. See attached set of slides (attached). He then answered questions from the body. He noted that the budget presented by the Governor provides for an increase of $6 million in permanent funding for the university. The budget proposal from the State Senate, expected to be announced in around three weeks, is not expected to be as favorable.

3. Presentation by Chair. the chair presented a draft budget proposal for consideration by the Academic Senate and the Budget Committee. The proposal calls for tuition restraint and a two-percent shift of resources from the non-academic side of the budget to the academic side. It also recommends the addition of 10 tenured/tenure-track faculty in departments serving undergraduate students that
have experiences significant enrollment increases in the past three years and an additional 15 graduate assistants. The proposal is attached.

4. Discussion of Budget Options. After the two presentations, members of the body engaged in an animated discussion of the budget options for FY 2011. Some members of the body asked questions of Mr. Kohrman and Provost Barrett about the Administration’s plans for the FY 2011 budget. Mr. Kohrman presented a simply budget model that allowed the body to see the result of various budget scenarios.

It was noted that some deans have already given notice of termination to some part-time faculty in anticipation of budget cuts. Such notices are commonplace this time of year, but the volume appears to be up considerably. One member expressed dismay that President Noren has not discussed publicly his budget priorities but instead has insisted that he will decide on budget cuts himself after getting from the deans their plans for cutting 5%, 10% and 15% from their budgets. Mr. Kohrman noted that the President is currently having budget discussions individually with the deans.

Questions were also asked about the chair’s proposal. The chair promised to provide data on the relative numbers of administrators at the University compared to peer institutions. He suggested that his proposal might be adopted without serious spending cuts by utilizing the unspent balance in the strategic initiatives fund that the Board of Governors had established to give the president a quick start in implementing his top priorities.

5. The committee adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Michael J. McIntyre