

Minutes – University Budget Council – April 3, 2008

Members Present:

Athletics: M. Malach

B&F: J. Lumm, T. Ohmer

CAS: R. Sipe (ENG)

CE: B. Bond

COB: L. Higgins

COE: M. Bretting

COT: P. Buchanan

Faculty Council: C. Blakely (ART CAS) H. Bunsis (ACT COB), B. Price (L&C COE)

ISPC: R. Hanna (ECO)

Marketing: S. Larnhart

Phy. Plant: John Donegan

Provost's Office: W. Tournquist

Student Affairs: B. Lindke

1. Opening Remarks
 - a. Howard had shared a handout created by faculty that said major budget cuts are not needed as presented by D. Lopnow in a recent 1-page handout.
 - b. On April 12th (noon in 205 Welch) will be a special UBC meeting to hear presentation from Howard and others; outsiders are invited to attend this.
2. John Lumm (Interim CFO) attend for the first time
 - a. Major changes in budget for FY09 may not be possible but suggested a "re-base" that would give units the budget for FY09 equal to what they spent in FY08. Yeah!
 - i. Meetings with each unit would occur to verify these amounts.
 - b. Other major changes in the budget and in financial processes could then occur and be in place for FY10.
 - c. He noted that we all have to agree on the numbers for the whole budgeting process to be successful.
 - d. Bernice Lindke reminded everyone to look at enrollment figures when estimating Fall; we don't want to over estimate tuition expectations for future semesters. Decreases in enrollments are likely.
 - e. Also remember that there is likely a shift in the kinds of student mix (i.e., more CE online, fewer in dorms, fewer hours taken/semester etc.)
3. All were asked to review:
 - a. One page brief budget report from Don Lopnow
 - b. Faculty report

4. Committee A Report (Budget Process, Carryforwards) Becky Sipe, Chr.
 - a. Submitted a 4-page report that is posted; note the bolded words as recommendations.
 - b. John Lumm noted the principles in the document seem sound but he needs time to review it in more details. Noted that benchmarking is good.
 - c. Was noted that "carryforwards" (we get them or we don't this year) needs a decision now. Changing the process rules near the end of the year is a real concern. "Carryforwards" is not a normal accounting practice John noted; we noted the need for holding funds from one year to the next to facilitate purchasing larger items. This will be a future topic to examine.
 - d. Note: If what was used this year is the base budget for all units for FY09, those that stayed within their budget are punished; those that overspend are sort of rewarded. A dilemma.
 - e. It was reported that the budgets we all have now are garbage... and don't reflect spending in nearly all categories.

5. Committee B Report (Auxiliaries, Athletics, EMU Foundation) Bernice Lindke, Chr.
 - a. Minutes of meeting yet to come.
 - b. Noted that a 5 year analysis was done in housing and occupancies; was often overstated in the past and they are trying to update procedures.
 - c. Doing calculations with Physical Plant to determine the amount of dollars needed to fix up apartments and dorms vs the return on investment.
 - i. The room audit and repair process is now improved with Bernice and John working together.

6. Committee C Report (Student Fees) Colin Blakely, Chr.
 - a. Circulated (posted) "Guiding Principles" for their committee to follow.
 - b. Trying to protect lower level students w/ fewer fees.
 - c. Have proposed a simplified scheme for fees; its posted for review.

7. Committee D Report (Capital Improvements/Physical Plant)
 - a. Utility management has been discussed; also asset preservation vs. operating budgets
 - i. Major impact of the weather was noted and how it changes year to year.
 - ii. Are reviewing possible energy saving programs to use on campus.

8. Committee E Report (The Budget Process)
 - a. Ran out of time; circulated their written report
 - b. Assume it is posted.