

College of Arts & Sciences
Budget Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Present:

Voting members: Professors Cliff Bekar, Naiomi Cameron, Rachel Cole, Jay Odenbaugh and Christopher Wendt

Ex-officio: Jane Hunter - Associate Dean of the College, George Battistel - Associate Vice President of Finance

Guests: Robert Nayer - Director of Operating and Capital Budgets, and Sam Cooper – Student Representative

Absent: Ex-officio member - Tuajuanda Jordan - Dean of the College

Recorder: Anne Boal - Mathematical Sciences

The minutes from the January 25th meeting were approved as written.

Chair Bekar plans to report at the Faculty Meeting today concerning the issues of sending salary letters to the faculty in the fall (or the summer) instead of in May. This recommendation by the Executive Council, which was discussed at the last BAC meeting, is a concern to this committee. Chair Bekar will tell the faculty that this committee welcomes feedback from the faculty on this issue. He will explain how this procedural adjustment would change the relationship of the college to the faculty in a fundamental way as well as spell out the pros and cons of receiving salary information in May or in the fall. Another concern is that this potential policy change on the timing of the salary letters is a new idea which is not done at other colleges.

Associate Dean Hunter commented that the goal would be to find a time in the summer to send the letters when the college has more confidence in the enrollment and still early enough to give the faculty time to plan for any changes. Hopefully there is a sweet spot that is agreeable to both the college and the faculty. She reiterated that the president is pushing for a 2% salary increase and that this is putting pressure on the budget.

Professor Odenbaugh would like to emphasize to the faculty that requiring the college to send the letters in May means that the college would likely offer a more conservative salary increase.

Chair Bekar noted that offering a 1% salary increase in May, with the hopes of increasing it in the fall if more funds are available would lower the possibility that it really would increase. There is a fear that other priorities will emerge to use up any available budget.

Mr. Battistel explained that the proposed margin for the 2012-13 budget, which is 1% of the net tuition revenue is smaller than previous years, since our loans are now at a fixed rate and therefore have lower volatility.

Associate Dean Hunter noted that we expect the discount tuition rate to stay above 40% for the foreseeable future, because of the economy. The target rate for the 2012-13 budget is 42%.

Chair Bekar noted that gifts to the college are projected to be down 2.5%, which is another problem.

This committee will meet again in 2 weeks.