

College of Arts & Sciences
Budget Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Thursday, September 26, 2013

Present:

Voting members: Professors Stepan Simek, Bryan Sebok, Susan Glosser, Janis Lochner and Ellen Seljan

Ex-officio: Tuajuanda Jordan - Dean of the College, Gary Reiness - Associate Dean of the College, George Battistel - Associate Vice President of Finance

Guests: Katherine Shallenberger – Budget Accountant, Robert Nayer - Director of Operating and Capital Budgets and Harrison Chase – student representative

Recorder: Anne Boal - Mathematical Sciences

Professor Stepan Simek will be the chair of the committee this year. He asked Dean Jordan to share her thoughts with the committee.

Dean Jordan talked about her vision for this committee. Since there has been a lot of talk last and this year about the Core and General Education requirements for CAS, Dean Jordan hopes that this committee would be able to work with the Curriculum Committee on the budgetary implications of the various models being considered for these requirements. She hopes that this information would help the Curriculum Committee and the faculty members decide which model is feasible and most desirable.

During the last few years, this committee has spent a lot of time reviewing faculty salaries. Her office is trying to address any salary inequities as funding becomes available, and hopes that this committee will not be rehashing these issues this year. She also encourages this committee to report at the faculty meetings frequently.

Professor Ellen Seljan will serve as this committee's representative on the Budget Managers Committee. This committee consists of senior managers from each section of CAS, and they propose recommendations to the Executive Council.

Professor Ellen Seljan has already started modeling the budgetary implications of the new GE requirements, and had emailed this to the committee. Professor Janis Lochner asked where the committee could obtain the data needed, such as number of students per course and the number of courses involved. Dean Jordan said that the committee could request information thru her office. Chair Simek thought that we would need to talk to individual departments for some information, but Dean Jordan encouraged the committee to make assumptions in their modeling, such as looking at 19, 21 or 24 students per class. Dean Jordan believes that this complete task could be a year's worth of work.

There ensued a discussion about the role of adjuncts in teaching Core and General Education. Dean Jordan hopes to use tenure-track faculty first, and then fill in with adjuncts as necessary, without adding more faculty. Associate Dean Reiness said that one of the issues about resources is answering the question: to what extent do we want the first year core course(s) to be taught by tenure-track or tenured faculty? If we adopt a Senior Seminar model, should those only be taught by tenure-line faculty? Answers to these questions will have an impact on the rest of the curriculum. Chair Simek talked

about the problem of too many adjuncts teaching Core. Could adjuncts be woven into the departments and tenure-track faculty teach Core instead? Would that be more acceptable and doable? Professor Lochner said that adjuncts cannot teach most of the science courses, and this problem does not affect the Math and Natural Sciences division the same way, as many of these faculty members do not teach in Core. Professor Glosser asked if we could make it mandatory for departments to assign a certain amount of their tenure-track faculty to teach a section of Core. She also asked about converting adjuncts to term positions, but Dean Jordan thought that this is not an option.

Dean Jordan suggests that someone sit on both this committee and the Curriculum Committee to share ideas.

Chair Simek stated that this committee would work on these issues; however there may be other agenda items that the committee may wish to address.

Chair Simek expressed that many faculty members do not know what is happening financially with the college, and this lack of information leads to rumors and false ideas. This committee could nudge the finance people to share their information in a way understandable to the faculty. Dean Jordan said that this same issue was brought up in the Faculty Council meeting yesterday. She wants to disperse as much information as feasible to the faculty, and she can use some of her time at faculty meetings to address this issue. Last spring, she had hoped to devote the faculty retreat to financial issues, however the discussions with Core and General Education demanded more immediate attention.

Mr. George Battistel noted that he would be happy to share basic budgetary information with this committee or other groups. Only some figures are not public, such as information that would show individual compensation and annual budget figures that had not yet been shared with the board of trustees. Mr. Carl Vance would be in a better position to talk about college finances. A faculty member is on the budget committee of the Board of Trustees, and that does give the faculty access to everything discussed there.

Professor Janis Lochner would find it useful to see a pie chart of various expenses and income of the college, before and after the financial crisis.

Chair Simek asked how fund raising efforts are progressing. Dean Jordan said that no capital campaign is scheduled for the foreseeable future, however the Annual Fund and other fundraising efforts are active. The office of Institutional Advancement could speak to this group or at the faculty meeting to report more specifically about fund raising. Hal Abrams, the Vice President for Institutional Advancement, might be someone for this group to invite to speak at one of these meetings. Mr. George Battistel noted that a capital campaign takes a few million to run, and typically you need commitments of 40% before you make the campaign public.

This committee will meet again on Tuesday, October 8.