

## **Minutes, Budget Committee of the Academic Senate**

### **Meeting of October 27, 2008**

Present: Muhammad Amjad, Donald DeGracia, Thomas Killion, Rob Kohrman (Liaison, Office of Budget, Planning and Analysis), Richard Needleman (Liaison, AAUP-AFT), Charles Parrish, Frederic Pearson, Louis Romano, Vishwanath Sardesai, Assia Shisheva, Lothar Spang, William Volz (chair), James Woodyard

Invited guests: Nancy Barrett, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; John L. Davis, Vice President for Finance & Facilities Management, Anca Vlasopolos, Board of Governors Academic Affairs Committee Alternate Faculty Representative .

Absent With Notice: Charles Elder, Winston Koo

1. The meeting was convened at 1:30 p.m. The minutes for the meeting of September 23, 2008 were approved without objection.
2. Report from the Chair: The chair noted with appreciation the early presentation of Vice President Davis of the Capital Outlay List/Projects for the State of Michigan FY 2010 Capital Outlay Request.
3. Vice President Davis presented several documents for discussion and review. After a brief historical review of the 5-year Capital Outlay Plan – FY 2009-2013 (submitted to the BOG in November 2007) and the Capital Outlay FY 2009-2013 Complete List of Projects, Mr. Davis presented the Capital Outlay FY 2010-2014 Complete List of Projects. The list totaled \$400 million with the \$180 million Multidisciplinary Biomedical Research Building ranked as “State Priority #1” and the \$40 million State Hall Classroom Renovation as “State Priority #2.” A motion was made and seconded to approve the two state priorities in the Capital Outlay Plan. It was passed unanimously.
4. Mr. Kohrman then shared a draft of an informational report that he would make to the BOG meeting on September 24, 2008. The report highlighted the drop in fall semester enrollment that materialized in the middle of the summer. Wayne State and Eastern Michigan were the only two of the fifteen MPUs that had declining enrollments. Mr. Kohrman also explored the budget implications of the projected \$8 million shortfall (2.9% of \$272 million) in estimated net tuition and fee revenues and outlined a number of key strategies for enrollment enhancement. A wide-ranging discussion followed on potential causes and solutions of this enrollment decline, including its relationship to tuition increases.
5. Mr. Volz presented a draft document of Priorities and Targets for Potential Cuts in FY 2009 Expenditures from a working group of the Academic Senate Budget Committee (Romano,

Parrish, Woodyard). The document sought to provide a constructive foundation for when the consultative process begins. It proposed FY 2009 budget cuts shared by both academic and non-academic departments in the University. Preserving the integrity of our instructional and research programs, the academic core of the University, was the central theme of the proposed cuts. Budget cuts that deteriorate the academic quality of our instructional and research programs risk damaging the University's capacity to generate the future revenues critical to the institution's financial health. Mr. Killion and Ms. Shisheva recommended reordering a number of the priorities. Following an extended discussion, a motion was made and seconded to forward the amended document to the Policy Committee. It passed unanimously.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

William H. Volz