

Minutes of the Academic Senate Budget Committee Meeting
March 23, 2015
12 noon, 1270 Faculty Administration Building

Members Present	Andrea Sankar, Chair, Douglas Barnett, Linda Beale, Donald DeGracia, Nancy George, Qin Lai, Lawrence Lemke, Stephen Lerner, Charles Parrish, Louis Romano, Linea Rydstedt, Heather Sandlin, Richard Smith, William Volz
Members Absent with Notice	
Members Absent	Susil Putatunda
Liaisons	Robert Kohrman, Administration, Kenneth Jackson, Grad. Council,
Liaisons not Present	Richard Needleman, AAUP-AFT, Salma Al-Zuhd, Student Senate
Also Present Non-senate members	Rick Nork, Margaret Winters, Gloria Heppner, Sudip Datta

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no additions.

2. Rob Kohrman “Metrics Used to Determine Budgets Within Colleges”

Two thirds of the budget cuts will be determined by metrics. One third will be at the discretion of the President and Provost. Details of the presentation can be found in the handout entitled “FY 2016 Budget Outlook” distributed by Mr. Kohrman. Half of the colleges are likely to receive a 4% budget cut. Some, such as Allied Health (1.6% cut) and Business Administration (6.1%) will have varying cuts. Funding cuts are likely to be aimed at part-time faculty and in reducing open lines. The committee expressed considerable concern that reduction in faculty will eventually lead to reduction in the quality of teaching provided by WSU and in our ability to recruit and retain students.

With regard to the “Development” metric, the committee questioned Mr. Kohrman concerning who is responsible for funding efforts to increase philanthropy in a college. In particular we want to know what is the rationale for penalizing an entire college for the Dean’s office ‘s performance in philanthropy?

The financial challenge can be summed up by the facts that the state appropriation is up only modestly down, enrollment (tuition revenue) is down, credit hours are down, the university has to repay a 'loan' from the university rainy day fund that was taken out last year to cover the deficit, and compensation is scheduled to increase as per the union contract.

State funding is based on metrics. There was considerable discussion about the nature of these metrics and whether the metrics the state uses are the same as those used by WSU. The state only reviews performance, not university mission. WSU is compared to other Carnegie 1 universities, most of whom do not share WSU's urban mission. It may be the case that WSU is being penalized for its research program in that a research university has a higher cost per credit hour.

Several people questioned whether administration lines will also be open for reduction.

Mr. Nork commented that the university will either have to find new sources of revenue or have the faculty currently here be more productive. Something "significant" will have to be cut; there are no more incremental cuts to make.

A 5-10 year plan for the WSU budget was suggested. Further, we wanted to know if the budget has been linked to the university's strategic plan. Are the cuts that are being made in line with the strategic plan? Do we have a five year plan to increase enrollment to 30,000?

3. Gloria Heppner "ICR Allocation Change"

The OVPR is focusing its efforts on promoting program grants that include several faculty, rather than our historic focus on grants obtained by individual faculty. The OVPR wants to encourage the development of a team science culture. To be successful at this it will require changes in the P and T deliberations. To provide the seed funding to encourage the formation of these groups the OVPR has reapportioned the ICR funds. WSU will also increase its ICR rate by 1%.

This emphasis is likely to influence the configuration of the traditional academic department, because the current configuration dilutes the effectiveness of a centralized emphasis on STEM. Mr. Romano suggested OVPR encourage current PIs to add additional co-PIs to their proposals so as to start building an effective research team.

The revised rates are as follows:

Central Pool: from 57% to 49%

Research Stimulation: from 10% to 24%

Research Facilities: from 7% to 9%

Departments: from 11% to 8%

Scholl/College: from 7.5% to 5%

Investigators: from 7% to 5%

Currently ICR funds contribute to a central pool allowing ICR funds to help balance the university budget. Five years ago the central pool was \$3.5 million; today it is \$2.8 million.

OVP staff responsible for supporting inter-disciplinary research, Julie Klein and Frieda Giblin plan to retire this year. They will have to be replaced.

4. Agenda items for future meetings

No agenda items suggested

5. Matters arising

No matters arising.