

# Memo

## Budget Committee of the Academic Senate

To: Policy Committee  
From: Michael J. McIntyre, Chair, Budget Committee  
Subject: Administration's Three Tuition-Increase Proposals  
Date: July 20, 2007

The Budget Committee of the Academic Senate met on Friday, July 20, 2007, to discuss the Administration's three proposals for tuition increases and budget cuts. The chair provided the committee with two background memos (attached). The first, dated and distributed on July 14, discusses possible budget cuts and offers a general philosophy for dealing with the reductions in State support for the University. The second memo, dated July 19, discusses the Administration's tuition proposals and provided an alternative proposal that would reduce the general tuition cut to under 10% but would include a contingency plan to deal with possible State funding cuts for FY 2008.

Unfortunately, the Administration's tuition proposals and supporting documentation were not provided to the committee until the morning of Friday, July 20. As a result, none of the members, other than those who have been briefed on the proposals by the Administration on July 16 (Profs. McIntyre, Parrish and Wolfson), were aware of any of the details of the proposals. The chair had been promised that the committee would receive the Administration's proposal on Tuesday, July 17, or on Wednesday, July 18 at the latest.

According to the provost, the delay was due to a need to present the proposals first to individual members of the Board of Governors, and that consultative process was not completed until Thursday, July 19. According to the Director of University Budgets, the problem was due to an email and server crash on Wednesday, July 18. Whatever the reason, the committee spent much of the meeting trying to understand the basics of the Administration's proposals and dealt with its recommendations only at the end of the meeting, when several members had been forced to leave, due to other commitments. The chair did not have time to discuss with the committee the alternative proposal that he had developed.

After discussion, the committee passed the following motions.

*Motion #1 [passed by a vote of 4 to 3]:*

That the committee recommends against any further cuts to the schools and colleges.

*Motion #2 [passed by a vote of 5-2]:*

That the committee supports the Administration's Option 1 Proposal.

*Motion #3 [passed by a vote of 2-1]:*

That the committee supports the Administration's Option 2 Proposal if the Administration agrees to explain how the extra tuition money collected in Fall 2007 under the contingency plan will be used if the State does not impose further cuts on the University.

*Motion #4 [passed by a vote of 5-1]:*

That the committee requests a report from the Administration on how the \$20 million cut by the State near the end of FY 2007 from the FY 2007 budget will be spent if some or all of that amount is returned to the University.

The chair did not vote on any of the motions. As faculty representative on the Board of Governors' Budget and Finance Committee, he may be required to vote on one or more of the Administration's proposals. He indicated that he would follow the instructions of the Policy Committee on how to vote on those proposals if the Policy Committee chose to give those instructions. Otherwise, he would vote in accordance with his own assessment of the best interests of the University.