

Minutes, Budget Committee of Academic Senate

Meeting of Oct. 16, 2006 (As approved, January 22, 2007)

Present: Michael McIntyre (chair), Anjali Anturkar*, Stephen Calkins, Frederic Pearson, Arik Ragowsky, Linea Rydstedt, Vishwanath Sardesai, Assia Shisheva, Eileen Trzcinski, William Volz, James Woodyard.

Absent with Notice: Charles Elder, Marlyne Kilbey*, Charles Parrish*, Louis Romano, Robert Ross.

Invited Guests: Nancy Barrett, Provost; John L. Davis, Vice President for Finance & Facilities Management

*Liaison

1. The meeting convened at 11:01 a.m. The minutes for the meeting of Sept. 11, 2006, were approved without objection. The chair welcomed Prof. Eileen Trzcinski, School of Social Work, as the newest member of the committee. Appreciation was also expressed to Director of University Budgets, Anjali Anturkar, for her many contributions to the work of the committee. Ms. Anturkar will be leaving the Wayne State University in December for a position at another university.
2. *Capital Budget.* Vice President John L. Davis brought to the committee a draft proposal for funds for capital projects, to be submitted to the state in the near future. A copy of the proposal was distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Mr. Davis invited comments from the committee.

A lively discussion followed. Members generally endorsed the renovation of State Hall as the top priority. Some discussion followed about the second phase of the renovation of the Chemistry Building as the second priority. The committee generally agreed that it deserved a high priority but questioned whether the new Science Research Building at the Medical School might be a higher priority. Provost Nancy Barrett indicated that the \$150 million price tag for the Science Research Building made it an unlikely winner in Lansing. She suggested that a package of State, Federal, and University funding will be needed for that building.

The chair noted that the unranked projects appear to be ranked despite a footnote disclaimer. As the committee suggested last year, he urged that the final document list the non-ranked projects in alphabetical order. Mr. Davis agreed to make that change. One member suggested that the starting date of FY 2010 for the Science Research Building, followed by renovation of Scott Hall in 2011 was a problem, because the Scott Hall renovation cannot begin, as a practical matter, until alternative laboratory space is available in the new building. It was suggested that the new building be moved up a year. The Provost noted that the starting date for the new building depended on funding, which was not yet secured. It was understood, nevertheless, that lab space in Scott Hall could not be made unusable until alternative space was available.

Several errors in the draft were noted, including (1) that "Honors College" should be "Honors Program", that the State should be asked for 75% of the cost of the Chemistry Building renovation, not the 50% shown, and (3) that the footnote on the new Engineering Development Center was inappropriate and should be eliminated. It was noted that a proposed new Student Center was listed on the draft capital outlay plan. The provost assured the committee that the inclusion of this item was for information purposes and did not reflect any decisions at the university level to move forward with the project.

3. *Housing*. It was noted by a member of the committee that the capital outlay budget indicated plans for an additional dormitory. He asked for information about current occupancy rates. The provost indicated that no fixed plans were in place for the new dormitory and that the matter would come to the committee in timely fashion. Another member noted that he did not want extensive information way in advance of any actual decision on the matter. The chair agreed to contact Nabelah Ghareeb, Assistant Vice President, Business Operations, for information about the current occupancy rates. The Provost indicated that two of the dormitories are almost completely filled and that the newest dormitory, although having some vacancies, is at least covering its costs. In view of the interest in a green campus expressed at a recent Academic Senate meeting, a member of the committee requested of copy of the analysis of the relative cost of renovating versus razing the Forest Apartments.

4. *New Budget Director*. The Provost gave a brief report on the hiring of a new Director of University Budgets. She indicated that Rob Kohrman had accepted her offer to become the Assistant Vice President for University Budgets. Mr. Kohrman is currently the Assistant Vice President for Budget and Finance at the University of Colorado. He will begin his new position in January. As an assistant vice president, he will report jointly to the provost and President Reid. Several members of the committee who had met with Mr. Kohrman spoke highly of him.

5. *Budget Form for Centers/Institutes*. The chair noted that the budget form prepared many years ago by the Budget Committee was in need of revision. He distributed a slightly revised form for comment. Prof. Woodyard indicated that he had been contacted by the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) about the revision of the form and was awaiting guidance from the committee. The chair noted that the Budget Committee no longer has a formal role in the review of centers and institutes. The chair agreed to contact the President of the Senate to see whether the Policy Committee wanted this committee to work on a revision of the form with the OVPR. [Note: The chair was told by Policy that it did want the Budget Committee to pursue the matter with the OVPR.] He also invited members to look over the form and give their comments to the chair.

6. *Adjournment*. The committee adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Michael J. McIntyre