

Minutes, Budget Committee of Academic Senate

Meeting of November 26, 2007 (As approved, January 7, 2008)

Present: Michael McIntyre (chair), Allen Batteau, Stephen Calkins, Richard Elling, Robert Kohrman*, Charles Parrish*, Frederic Pearson, Robert Ross, Linea Rydstedt, Assia Shisheva, Lothar Spang, William Volz, and James Woodyard.

Absent with Notice: Donald DeGracia, Winston Koo.

Absent: Charles Elder

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 November 12, 2007, were approved without objection.
2. *Capital Outlay Request.* The committee discussed the "FY2009 Capital Outlay Request and Five-year Outlay Plan," that has been submitted to the State and will now be going to the Board of Governors (BOG) for its approval. Vice President Davis noted that a revised report will be submitted after approval by the BOG.

The chair complained about the lack of prior consultation with the Budget Committee, especially in light of the changes that were made in the top two priorities for funding. Vice President Davis and Provost Barrett promised that they would consult on the report for next year at the September 2008 meeting of the committee.

The committee also discussed some details of the capital-outlay report. The chair noted that on page 7 of the report, the recommended projects are numbered, giving the impression that those projects near the bottom, such as the renovation of State Hall, were ranked very low. In fact, only the top two projects are ranked, and the others are listed alphabetically. Other members indicated that they had found the numbering to be confusing. One member recalled that Vice President Davis had promised last year to list the projects below the first two alphabetically, with no numbers. Vice President Davis assured the committee that the revised version would have the numbers deleted and that footnote 1 would be modified to explain that the listing beyond the first two is merely alphabetical.

A motion was moved and seconded to request that renovation of State Hall replace the renovation of the Chemistry Building as one of the top two priorities for funding. The proponents suggested that putting State Hall in that position would reaffirm the commitment of the University to support its teaching function. Those in opposition felt that such a political statement might be misunderstood and might

suggest a lack of support for the renovation of the Chemistry Building. The motion failed. Several members, although opposing the motion, noted that the classroom facilities at the University are below the standards set by the regional colleges and even the community colleges and that the University needs to address that weakness if it expects to continue to attract well-qualified undergraduate students. Vice President Davis assured the committee that the Administration was aware of the deficiencies of State Hall and that its removal from the top two positions this year did not mean that it was not a high priority for the next five years. He also indicated that the Administration would seek other sources of funding to do painting and other significant maintenance at State Hall.

3. *FY 2008 Budget.* The committee discussed the report titled "FY 2008 Budget Update" prepared by Budget Director Rob Kohrman. The report confirmed the claim made repeatedly by the committee that tuition revenues were being underestimated by a very large amount. The report is consistent, except in some details, with the report prepared by the chair for the committee and revised for submission to the Policy Committee and the BOG. The committee reaffirmed its desire to be consulted on the use of the large amounts of uncommitted funds.

4. *Differential Tuition for Nursing and Pharmacy.* The Administration is recommending to the BOG that tuition be increased in the College of Nursing and the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. One member noted that the additional spending recommended for Nursing was in excess of the amounts expected to be obtained from the proposed tuition increase. The chair noted that the report does not indicate the percentage of the tuition increase that will be retained by Nursing or Pharmacy. Mr. Kohrman promised that the report would be corrected before the meeting of the BOG. He indicated that the intent was that the colleges would retain 85%. The chair suggested that the numbers in the report seemed to suggest that the colleges would retain 100%. Mr. Kohrman promised to check the numbers. [Note: At the BOG meeting, a revised report was submitted showing that the colleges will retain 100% for the first two years and 85% thereafter.]

5. *Grants and Contracts Report.* At the request of President Seymour Wolfson, the chair circulated for comment a report on grants and contracts prepared by Vice President Hilary Ratner. Concern was expressed that the report may be presenting an overly optimistic picture of grant success at the University.

6. *Survey on Budget Cuts.* Prof. Woodyard circulated a draft survey of chairs and deans on the impact of the budget cuts on their units. He invited comments from the committee. The chair asked members who had not had time to review the draft before the meeting to submit their comments to Prof. Woodyard.

7. *Adjournment.* The committee adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Michael J. McIntyre