

## Minutes, Budget Committee of Academic Senate

### Meeting of March 18, 2002 (as approved April 30, 2002)

*Present:* Michael McIntyre (chair), Stephen Calkins, Ravi Dhar, Charles Elder (late w/ notice), Diane Gebard\*, Charles Parrish, Vanessa Rose\*, William Volz.

*Absent with Notice:* Marc Cogan, James Kaltenbach, Marlyne Kilbey, Louis Romano, Linea Rydstedt, Jeannette Poindexter, William Slater, James Woodyard\*.

*Absent w/o Notice:* John Ofenstein, Lucia Schuger, Scott Ransom.

\*Liaison

1. The meeting convened at 3:06 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2002, were approved without amendment. The proposed transfer of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program to CULMA was added to the agenda at the request of the Senate President.

2. *Announcements.* The chair informed the committee that he raised with the Board of Governors the need for earlier distribution of the BOG materials if the Budget Committee is to give informed responses. After some discussion, members of the BOG asked the Secretary to the BOG to make every effort to get the materials out by Thursday. The Secretary has agreed to do so and did in fact get the materials out in timely fashion for the BOG meeting of March 20. In addition, Ms. Rose distributed early the supporting materials relating to the year-end reports. The chair also announced with pleasure that the university has provided the Budget Committee with the information on the priorities for deferred maintenance that the committee had requested at its last meeting.

The chair also noted that he had not yet received from the Provost's Office the list of chairs of unit budget committees. Professor Parrish agreed to contact the Provost and request the names of the department budget committee chairs that had been collected so far.

3. *Parking.* The Policy Committee had forwarded to the Budget Committee a copy of the Report of the Parking Task Force (January 2002). That report was posted on the web site of the Budget Committee, and the link to the report was circulated on the listserv. See <http://www.law.wayne.edu/mcintyre/budget>. The chair served as a member of the task force and gave a brief overview of its work. He noted that the report does not make any specific recommendation on increases in parking fees, but it is clear from the report that some significant increases should be expected if parking is to be self sufficient. Discussion of the report followed.

One member noted that students do not like paying parking fees, partly because parking is free at some other places where they have taken courses. The chair noted that the task force recommended that some of the more remote parking at Wayne should be free. Some members indicated that the free parking might help in reducing objections but certainly would not eliminate them. It was suggested that the high projected costs for parking are due in part to the expected replacement of vacant lots now used for parking with parking structures. The conversion of the vacant lots is expected as the university's

need for additional building sites grows. A suggestion was made that the university might consider including the cost of a parking structure as part of a recoverable cost for funded research. To treat parking as a recoverable cost, the university would need to do some detailed accounting to demonstrate that additional parking was indeed needed for the funded research activities.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the consensus was that an examination of the budget aspects of parking was premature, due to the absence of a specific budget recommendation. The committee voted without opposition that the chair be instructed to write up the substance of the committee's position and forward it to the Policy Committee after circulating it to the membership for their comments. The chair agreed and drafted the following resolution:

The Policy Committee forwarded to the Budget Committee a copy of the report of the Parking Task Force (January 2002). The committee discussed the report at its meeting of March 18, 2002. The committee concluded that the report gives useful guidance on the possible solutions to parking problems at the university. Because the report does not include specific budget recommendations, however, the committee believes that it would be premature for it to act on the report. The committee requests that the Policy Committee forward to it for its review the Administration's proposed recommendations for changes in the parking fee structure when those proposed recommendations become available.

4. *BOG Materials.* Budget Director Rose reviewed with the committee the materials going to the Board of Governor's Meeting on March 20. Most of the discussion focused on the revised budget numbers. A question was raised about the adjustment to the benefits account from an original amount of over \$52 million to less than \$6 million (see first item on page 8 of General Fund Summary Report of 2/26/02). Ms. Rose explained that this adjustment reflects a change in accounting method under the new FMS system. Under FMS, employee benefits are nominally charged to the units, so the amounts that were included in the original budget have been transferred to the budgets of the units to cover those costs. This change in procedures is not expected to have any substantive impact on unit budgets. Ms. Rose also noted that the university has been hit with a charge of around \$1.5 million for bills that somehow were not submitted to the DMC. One member noted that many units seem to be carrying forward rather large balances. He suggested that these units seem to have created their own "rainy day" fund. Ms. Rose indicated that this issue was being monitored.

5. *Review of Centers.* The subcommittee (Professors Calkins, McIntyre, Parrish) charged with doing a preliminary report on the proposed Institute for Learning and Performance Improvement indicated that they had not completed the report but expected to have it completed for the next meeting. It was suggested by one member that the subcommittee might inquire as to steps being taken to reduce the draw of the proposed institute on the General Fund.

The chair stated that the Policy Committee had asked the committee to review a request by the Skillman Center for Children for renewal of its charter. The materials for the center were distributed to the members. It was noted that the center does not draw funds from the General Fund and has operated successfully for many years. The request for renewal, therefore, is unlikely to generate much budget controversy. Professors Dhar, Elder, and Volz agreed to serve as a subcommittee to prepare a brief report for the committee on the center, with Prof. Elder serving as chair.

6. *Transfer of Interdisciplinary Studies Program.* The Policy Committee requested that the Budget Committee review the proposal from the Provost to move the Interdisciplinary Studies Program (ISP) from the College of Lifelong Learning (CLL) to the College of Urban, Labor, and Metropolitan Affairs (CULMA). A report from the Provost on the proposed transfer was circulated at the meeting. After discussion, the following motion was made and seconded:

After reviewing the relevant materials, the Budget Committee has concluded that the transfer of ISP from CLL to CULMA does not raise any budget issues that need reviewing by the committee. As a result, the committee raises no objection to the transfer. This conclusion is based on the assumption that the various budget lines now associated with ISP in CLL will be transferred to CULMA and that the transfer will not jeopardize the positions of faculty and staff associated with ISP, CLL, or CULMA. If the committee's assumption is incorrect, the committee requests that the Policy Committee refer the matter back to the committee.

This motion was approved without opposition, with the understanding that the motion would be distributed to the full membership for their comments before the action of the committee is reported to the Policy Committee. This opportunity for comment is being provided because the ISP issue was not included on the original agenda for the meeting.

7. The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

By Michael J. McIntyre