

Minutes, Budget Committee of Academic Senate

Meeting of March 6, 2006 (as approved April 24, 2006)

Present: Michael McIntyre (chair), Stephen Calkins*, Marc Cogan, Charles Elder*, Charles Parrish, Frederic Pearson, Louis Romano, Vishwanath Sardesai, Assia Shisheva, Harley Tse, Cheryl Verbruggen*, William Volz, James Woodyard.

Absent with Notice: Linea Rydstedt, Loren Schwiebert (sabbatical), Assia Shisheva.

Absent without Notice: Ravi Dhar, Charles Parrish.

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

*Liaison

1. The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. The minutes for the meeting of February 13, 2006, were approved without objection.

2. *Blue Ribbon Committee.* The Blue Ribbon Committee dealing with budget cuts and revenue enhancements issued its report in early January. Mostly, the report reviewed prior studies on the same or related topics. The Budget Committee had requested a copy of the report. The Provost agreed to provide a copy to the committee on a confidential basis. [Note: The Provost sent a copy of the report to the Chair, who has circulated the report to the committee on a confidential basis.]

3. *Report of Budget Form Committee.* Professor Woodyard gave a report to the committee on the work of the budget forms committee — a joint committee with the Budget Committee and the Office of the Vice President for Research. He gave a history of the attempts of the Budget Committee to prepare a revised form in coordination with the Office of the Vice President for Research. The budget forms committee met in the fall to agree on a plan for revision of the forms. Professor Woodyard reported that no substantial progress was made after this meeting. He indicated that progress was unlikely if the committee waited for the Office of the Vice President for Research to act.

After discussion, several members suggested that the Budget Committee act on its own to make some modest revisions of its form to eliminate known problems. The Chair agreed to look into the matter and discuss it with the president of the Academic Senate.

4. *General Fund First Quarter Report.* Some time back, the faculty representative on the Board of Governors' Budget and Finance Committee had urged the BOG, at the request of the Budget Committee, to ask the Administration to provide quarterly reports of actual expenditures from the General Fund, with special emphasis on certain expenditures (utilities, fringe benefits) that had been over-budgeted in the past. The BOG did request such reports, and, in accordance with that request, the

Administration was submitting the FY 2006 General Fund Budget First Quarter Report to the BOG. The committee discussed that report with the Provost and Vice President for Finance & Facilities Management. The committee expressed some disappointment that the quarterly report simply provided new estimates without providing the data on actual expenditures on which the new estimates were based. After discussion, the following motion was made and seconded:

The Budget Committee requests that the Administration provide, as a supplement to the quarterly budget reports, a report on the actual expenditures and revenues for the quarter, with comparisons to the actual expenditures for the same quarter in the prior year.

The motion passed without opposition.

5. *Report by Provost on State Appropriations.* The Provost reported on the budget situation in Lansing. She indicated that all was in flux but that the governor had recommended a 2% increase in funding for research institutions. The Provost noted that Wayne has restrained tuition increases in FY 2004/05 in accordance with a deal with Lansing that schools that restrained tuition would not suffer a budget cut. In fact, the Wayne budget initially was cut by \$3.8 million. Of that amount, \$2.1 million was restored in FY 2005/06 but was not included in base, and the remaining \$1.7 million was restored in FY 2006/07, again with no adjustment in base.

6. *Athletic Field Expenditures.* Vice President Davis gave a report on the proposed expenditure of \$1.1 million for installing artificial turf on the athletic field and improving the track. Mr. Davis indicated that the artificial turf would allow for better use of the field for graduation ceremonies. In response to a question from a member, Mr. Davis indicated that the naming of a room in the track facility after the donor of money for the track was a minor matter, given the modest nature of the room at issue.

7. *Report of the Data Committee.* Professor Cogan gave a report on the progress of the Data Subcommittee. That subcommittee was formed to review with the Provost's Office the reasons for the decline over the past decade in the percentage of the budget going to the schools and colleges. Professor Cogan indicated that the subcommittee had met and discussed data needs and that the Director of University Budgets promised to provide the requested data soon.

8. *Adjournment.* The committee adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Michael J. McIntyre