

Minutes, Budget Committee of Academic Senate

Meeting of May 8, 2001 (as approved June 4, 2001)

- Present:* Charles Parrish (chair), Charles Elder, Michael McIntyre*, Scott Ransom, Louis Romano, William Slater, Shirley Walkowski*.
- Absent with Notice:* Richard Beltramini, Marc Cogan, Nancy Greger, Hiroshi Mizukami, William Volz, James Woodyard.
- Absent w/o Notice:* David Edelman*, James Kaltenbach, Marlyne Kilbey*, John Ofenstein, Vanessa Rose*, Linea Rydstedt.

*Liaison

1. The meeting convened at 3:06 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of March 27, 2001, were approved without amendments. The only item on the agenda was review of materials going to the Board of Governors on Wednesday, May 9, 2001.
2. *BOG Materials.* Only one item on the BOG agenda was discussed — the budget for the WSU Middle School. It was noted that the report accompanying the recommendation was sketchy, misleading, and difficult to understand. The committee had complained at its meeting on May 1, 2000, about the inadequacy of the report on progress of the WSU middle school. At the time, the committee adopted the following motion:

That future reports on the WSU public school to the Board of Governors include a comparison of its MEAP scores for each grade with the average state scores for those grades and the scores achieved at other charter schools operating in Detroit and the surrounding area. In addition, the future reports should include information on faculty attrition at the WSU public school, with appropriate comparisons to other schools, and information on studies that may have been done on the effectiveness of the school.

The minutes of the May 1, 2000, meeting continued as follows:

The motion passed without opposition. Ms. Rose indicated that the report prepared by the school principal did include additional information that was not included in the abbreviated report submitted to the BOG. The chair indicated that he would raise issues about the WSU public school at the BOG's Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

The committee members discussed various problems with the WSU Middle School. The consensus view was that annual improvements in quality were required if the school is to achieve its goal of State accreditation. If improvements are to be made, annual monitoring of progress is important. After discussion, the committee passed the following motion without opposition:

That the Budget Office be requested to prepare a supplemental report for the Board of Governors in accord with the motion approved by the Budget Committee at its meeting of May 1, 2000.

3. *State Appropriations.* There followed an informal discussion of the prospects for new revenue from the State or from tuition increases. The chair noted that the most recent information coming from Lansing indicates almost zero growth in the budget allocation to the universities. There was some optimism, nevertheless, that an increase of around two percent might be attainable. There is as yet no indication whether the ceiling on tuition increases will be maintained. It was noted that without new money and with additional computer funding already approved, the Administration will need to make some significant cuts on the administrative side of the budget to avoid a further drop in the percentage of funds going to the academic side.

4. *Budget Process.* By this time last year, the Budget Office had prepared a schedule for consultation on the new budget with the Budget Review Committee and the Budget Committee of the Academic Senate. So far, there has been no consultation or offer of consultation or proposed schedule of consultation on the FY 2002 budget. The chair indicated that he would convey the concerns of the committee to the Budget Director Rose about the delays in establishing a consultation schedule. He also indicated that he would check to see whether an alternate has been appointed to consult with the Budget Review Committee during the absence of Professor Marc Cogan. The chair indicated that he will be away in July and August and that the Policy Committee will need to appoint a replacement for him.

5. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

By Michael J. McIntyre