

Minutes, Budget Committee of Academic Senate

Meeting of July 20, 2007 (as approved, Aug. 2, 2007)

Present: Michael McIntyre (chair), Stephen Calkins, Robert Kohrman*, Charles Parrish*, Frederic Pearson, Louis Romano, Linea Rydstedt, Vishwanath Sardesai, Assia Shisheva, William Volz, and James Woodyard.

Absent with Notice: Charles Elder, Arik Ragowsky, Robert Ross.

Absent without Notice: Shirley Thomas.

Invited Guests: Nancy Barrett, Provost; John L. Davis, Vice President for Finance & Facilities Management; and Seymour Wolfson, President of Academic Senate.

*Liaison

1. The meeting convened at 11:01. The minutes for the meeting of June 18, 2007, were approved without objection.
2. *Delay in Obtaining Tuition Proposals.* The chair began by noting that the Administration's proposal for tuition increases and budget cuts did not appear on the Board of Governor's (BOG) website until early this morning (July 20). He had been promised repeatedly that the materials would be available on Tuesday, July 17 or, at the latest, on Wednesday, July 18. He received an email from the Director of University Budgets explaining that the delay was due to an email and server problem at the University. He received an email from the Provost indicating that the materials were being held until they could be presented individually to each member of the BOG, and that this process did not conclude until Thursday, July 19. Whatever the explanation, the chair noted that the ability of the committee to seriously examine the proposals was seriously compromised.
3. *Memos and other Documents.* In anticipation of the meeting, the chair prepared a lengthy memo dealing with the budget issues confronting the University, including an explanation of the various budget cuts that he had suggested at the meeting of the BOG's Budget and Finance Committee on July 10, 2007. That memo is attached. The chair also prepared a memo dealing with the Administration's tuition proposals. That memo included an alternative plan that would allow the University to keep its tuition increase under 10% by declining to replace year-end balances for FY 2007 and by making less than \$1 million of cuts from the list he had presented to the BOG. That memo also is attached. Professor Woodyard presented a graph showing the amounts of new money coming to the University over the past decade. That document is attached.
4. *Discussion of Tuition Options.* The committee had a frank discussion about the tuition options facing the University. At the end of that discussion, the committee discussed the advice that it wished to give to the Policy Committee with respect to

the Administration's tuition proposals. In an attempt to provide that advice, the following four motions were duly made and seconded, with the results shown below.

Motion #1 [passed by a vote of 4 to 3]:

That the committee recommends against any further cuts to the schools and colleges.

Motion #2 [passed by a vote of 5-2]:

That the committee supports the Administration's Option 1 Proposal.

Motion #3 [passed by a vote of 2-1]:

That the committee supports the Administration's Option 2 Proposal if the Administration agrees to explain how the extra tuition money collected in Fall 2007 under the contingency plan will be used if the State does not impose further cuts on the University.

Motion #4 [passed by a vote of 5-1]:

That the committee requests a report from the Administration on how the \$20 million cut by the State near the end of FY 2007 from the FY 2007 budget will be spent if some or all of that amount is returned to the University.

The chair did not vote on any of the motions. He agreed to prepare a memo (attached) to the Policy Committee that would set forth the recommendations of the committee.

The chair was asked what he expected to do as faculty representative at the meeting of the BOG's Budget and Finance Committee. He indicated that he has reservations about the Administration's proposals but that he would follow the instructions of the Policy Committee on how to vote on those proposals if the Policy Committee chose to give those instructions. Otherwise, he would vote in accordance with his own assessment of the best interests of the University.

5. *Other Matters Going to the BOG.* Time did not permit any discussion of the other matters going to the BOG's Budget and Finance Committee. Those matters also were not received until the morning of July 20, so most members, including the chair, had not had an opportunity to review them. Vice President Davis graciously offered to answer any questions that might arise about the proposals.

6. *Adjournment.* The committee adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Michael J. McIntyre