

Minutes, Budget Committee of Academic Senate

Meeting of December 11, 2007 (As approved, January 7, 2008)

Present: Michael McIntyre (chair), Stephen Calkins, Donald DeGracia, Charles Elder, Richard Elling, Robert Kohrman*, Charles Parrish*, Linea Rydstedt, Assia Shisheva, Lothar Spang, William Volz, and James Woodyard.

Absent with Notice: Allen Batteau, Winston Koo , Frederic Pearson, Robert Ross.

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

*Liaison

1. The meeting convened at 2:03 p.m. Approval of the minutes from the prior meeting was held over until the next meeting.
2. *Discussion of Report on FY 2007 Budget.* Budget Director Rob Kohrman prepared a set of slides, circulated to the committee, that showed, *inter alia*, the revenues and expenditures for FY 2007 and the funds not yet committed, and the Administration's plans for spending the uncommitted funds. Committee members had many questions about the Kohrman slides. The slides included a lengthy list of proposed new expenditures, to be financed out of the additional funds that have become available in the current fiscal year. The Kohrman slides include tables for all carryover, including those reflecting prior budget approval and those for proposed new spending. To avoid confusion, the table below lists only the proposed new projects.

Administration's Plans for Carryforward Money			
#	Administration Projects	dollars (millions)	Percentage
1	Proposed Adjustments to Rainy Day Fund	\$4.50	21.0%
2	Academic Buildings Capital Construction Initiatives	\$8.00	37.4%
3	Chair Recruitments	\$1.00	4.7%
4	Graduate Medical Education Support	\$0.50	2.3%
5	Marketing for Schools & Colleges	\$0.75	3.5%
6	University Wide Technology Improvements	\$0.40	1.9%
7	Library Support	\$0.20	0.9%
8	Research Excellence Centers Distribution	\$0.48	2.2%
9	Shiffman Library	\$0.25	1.2%
10	EPAF Funding	\$0.08	0.4%
11	Campus Deferred Maintenance	\$2.50	11.7%
12	Custodial Equipment	\$0.29	1.4%
13	Elevator Service & Maintenance Contracts	\$0.45	2.1%
14	University Wide Marketing	\$0.50	2.3%
15	Campus Wellness Program	\$0.25	1.2%
16	Auditorium Improvements	\$1.25	5.8%
	Total	\$21.39	100.0%

Note: The administration proposes to add an additional \$1 million for faculty setups but did not break that amount out from the carryover of setups previously budgeted.

Various members noted that there has been no consultation with respect to the proposed new expenditures. It was also noted that the Administration has not offered documentation adequate to evaluate the relative merits of the proposals.

The chair noted that the proposed distribution of funds does not appear to be consistent with the Board of Governors' priority resolution, which states that funds for FY 2008 were to be distributed in the following priority order: instruction, academic affairs, research, and administration. Budget Director Kohrman indicated that he was not sure whether the priority resolution covered the funds carried over into the FY 2008 budget.

Various members raised objections to one or another of the items on the list. One member defended the allocation for marketing in the schools and colleges and suggested that the committee should not oppose particular projects without offering alternatives. Another member noted the difficulty of setting budget priorities when the Administration has listed only the projects it is recommending, without offering a list of other projects that it has considered.

One member noted that being asked to comment on a "final" list does not constitute genuine consultation. Another member suggested that the Administration should not be moving ahead with plans for the much-needed new medical facility until the School of Medicine begins to address its very serious problems and comes up with a stable plan for that facility.

At the close of the discussion, one member observed that the Administration seems bent on spending all available money on its favored projects without taking into account the likely year-end shortfalls and the desirability of creating a reserve to give some options for the new president.

3. *Survey on Budget Cuts.* Prof. Woodyard noted that he had circulated a draft survey of chairs and deans on the impact of the budget cuts on their units. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to authorize the subcommittee to proceed with the survey. The motion passed without opposition.

4. *Parking Fee Increase.* The chair discussed his memo to the committee dealing with the proposed increase in parking fees. He noted that the Auxiliary Budget for parking made no mention of any fee increase and showed a balanced budget, with a significant reserve, without any increase. He also noted that the memo that announced the increase gave a listing of various projects that the parking office had undertaken but gave no budget information and no indication of how the new money would be spent. He noted that the Administration had engaged in extensive consultation when the fees were increased in 2002 but had not consulted anyone outside the Administration on this increase.

Various members of the committee indicated their displeasure with the proposed parking increase. One member suggested that the proposal came from the Office of the Executive Vice President, who supervises the parking office. After discussion, the following motion was made and seconded:

That the Budget Committee expresses its opposition to an increase in the parking fees until a budget plan explaining the need for the increase and the ways the additional money will be spent has been presented to the Wayne community.

The motion passed without opposition.

5. *Consultation with the Provost.* The chair noted that the Provost had agreed to consult with the committee on the spending plans for the overages in the FY 2008 budget and on the new funding scheme for the Summer School. The Provost agreed to meet with the committee on these matters at the beginning of the new year. A tentative date of Monday, January 7, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. was set for the meeting. The date will be firmed up as soon as people have a chance to check their calendars. Budget Director Kohrman noted that he was doing a revised report at the request of the deans and that this report would not be ready in early January. The decision was made, nevertheless, to proceed with the meeting.

6. *Adjournment.* The committee adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Michael J. McIntyre