

Memo

Budget Committee, Academic Senate Wayne State University

To: Blue Ribbon Committee, c/o Prof. Elder

From: Budget Committee, Michael J. McIntyre, chair

Subject: Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee

Date: November 30, 2005

At the most recent meeting of the Budget Committee of the Academic Senate, Professor Charles Elder, faculty representative on the blue-ribbon committee looking at budget cuts and revenue enhancements, gave a report on the general progress of the committee. He indicated that the discussions of the committee are confidential. Nevertheless, he gave some general indicators of what the committee was looking at and indicated that it expects to make a report to the Board of governors (BOG) in early January. He indicated that the committee is reviewing past reports for savings and revenue-enhancement ideas that had not yet been implemented. He also indicated that the committee was not looking at cuts that would significantly alter the core mission of the University.

Various members indicated that the committee ought to be looking hard at ways of conserving energy, by monitoring energy use in University buildings and giving units appropriate incentives to conserve energy. Members also suggested that the committee consider ways of encouraging retirement or at least not discouraging retirement. Prof. Elder indicated that these and other suggestions were welcome by the committee. The chair asked if the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee could be distributed to the Budget Committee prior to consideration of the report by the BOG. After discussion, the following motion was made and seconded and approved without dissent:

That the faculty representative on the Blue Ribbon Committee request that the committee share its report with the Budget Committee prior to consideration of that report by the Board of Governors.

Prof. Elder indicated that the Blue ribbon Committee was the creature of the BOG and would need to provide its report to the BOG in the first instance. The chair indicated that the motion assumed that the BOG would get the report first — what the committee was requesting was a copy of the report before it was discussed by the BOG so that the committee could have timely input. Provost Barrett indicated that reports being discussed by the BOG are traditionally provided to the committee prior to a BOG meeting. A member replied that the point of the motion was to request that this past practice be continued in this case.