

Memo

Budget Committee, Academic Senate

To: Policy Committee

From: Michael J. McIntyre, Chair

Subject: Motions made at meeting of January 28

Date: February 1, 2013

At its meeting of January 28, 2013, the Budget Committee adopted two motions that implicitly request action by the Policy Committee. The meeting was held to discuss the capital outlay priorities of the University for the next several years. Because of the importance of the topic, the committee invited members of the Policy Committee and the Senate's facilities committee (FSST), plus the dean of CLAS, to join the meeting.

The Budget Committee was disappointed to learn that the Administration had removed the project to renovate Scott Hall from the top of the priority list to the bottom without any consultation with the Budget Committee of the Senate. The Administration has suggested that it did consult about its new priority list with FSST. In fact, however, the Administration merely had made an informational presentation to that committee this past November about its building plans, after the priority list had already been submitted to the State of Michigan. No actual consultation took place. In any event, discussion of the priority list has always taken place with the Budget Committee, and it was that committee that had reached consensus with the Administration on making the renovation of State Hall the University's top priority after funding was set for the biomedical research building.

At the above referenced meeting, the following two motions were adopted unanimously:

It is recommended that the administration form a joint committee composed of Senate members and administrators that will be charged

with determining what can and should be done in State Hall to make it a better teaching facility.

It is recommended that the administration form a joint committee that may or may not have the same membership as described in the State Hall motion to examine the current utilization of laboratory classrooms and the current and projected enrollment and retention data for science students and to make a recommendation regarding the need to construct a new building having 30 laboratory classrooms.

On behalf of the Budget Committee, I respectfully request that the Policy Committee adopt the substance of these motions and work with the Administration to form the two committees described in the above motions.