

Minutes, Budget Committee of Academic Senate

Meeting of March 6, 2000 (as approved March 31, 2000)

Present: Charles Parrish (chair), Alex Agius,* Marc Cogan, Marlyne Kilbey*, Charles Elder (late), Michael McIntyre*, Hiroshi Mizukami, John Ofenstein, Vanessa Rose*, Shirley Walkowski*, James Woodyard, Richard Gallagher (guest).

Absent with Notice: Richard Beltramini, Domenico Gatti, Nancy Greger, William Slater,

Absent w/o Notice: Linea Rydstedt,

*Liaison

1. The meeting convened at 3:31 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2000, as corrected, were approved.

2. Vanessa Rose, Budget Director, reported briefly on the budget issues to go before BOG's Budget and Finance Committee on January 27, 2000. In response to questions, she reviewed the budget calendar. Budget packages went out the prior Friday and are due April 3. Budget hearings will be held in April. There will also be budget hearings on special initiatives with the vice presidents. A decision on tuition levels is expected in May. The issue of tuition levels and strategy is now before a tuition committee. The tentative budget should be ready by May 30. June 9 is the tentative deadline for finishing the budget.

Discussion followed about the function of the Budget Advisory Committee. Concern was expressed that the committee would not be in the loop early enough to affect budget decisions. Same problem is arising for this committee.

Concern was expressed that the new process for setting the budget has focused only on the academic side. Performance measures are needed on the non-academic side as well. Otherwise, budget reform will simply result in budget cuts on the academic side because the reviewed part of the budget is the part put at risk.

It was noted that there is no elected budget committee at Engineering, contrary to contract between AAUP-AFT and University.

The suggestion was made that the Budget Director meet with the committee to walk the committee through some of the key budget documents and to discuss some of the basic budget assumptions. That suggestion was accepted. A meeting is scheduled for March 24 at 2:00 p.m. In preparation for the meeting, the Budget Director agreed to make available the 1999 and 1998 budgets and the 1999 and 1998 carryforward reports. [Note: Meeting rescheduled for March 31, 2000.]

3. Richard Gallagher gave a brief report on the plans for a vote at the next meeting of the Academic Senate on the report of the ASSET committee. The vote would authorize the committee to move forward with a trial of its proposal. Prof. Gallagher urged support for the ASSET committee's recommendations.

4. The proposed WSU Research and Technology Park was discussed. It was noted that no General Fund money is currently at stake and that various time lines have been set to determine whether sufficient outside funding will be available to justify continuation of the project. Some members expressed disappointment that there was no evaluation in the current proposal for the reasons that the last technology park proposal ended in failure. Others expressed hope for the success of the new venture and the hope that it would offer some faculty an opportunity to exercise their entrepreneurial bent.

5. The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

By Michael J. McIntyre