

University Senate Budget Committee Minutes

Tuesday, September 24, 2013

315 Dahlberg Hall

Members Present: JoAnn Bacon, Diane Belcher, Michelle Brattain, Margo Brinton, Jennifer Chiovaro, Douglass Covey, Mary Finn, Charles Gilbreath, Peggy Gallagher, Joe Hurley, Tyler Lewis, Unil Perera, Jerry Rackliffe, Vincent Rehder, Lesley Reid, Laura Salazar, Rose Sevcik, Christine Skwiot, Jowanna Tillman, Volkan Topali.

1. Lesley Reid called meeting to order.
2. Approval of the minutes.
3. Lesley Reid opened the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. She also thanked the many committee members who had agreed to be volunteers on subcommittees.
4. Jerry Rackliffe, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration provided an update on the current GSU budget and the USG 2015 budget request.

Vice President Rackliffe reported that we just exceeded last year's enrollment of 32,097 for fall at 32,139. Credit hours for fall are very close to what was used in the university budget. Last year credit hours were at 394,471 and were budgeted at 396,250. Currently we are within 1700 credit hours of our budget. This indicates that our budget models are working well and we should make our budget based on fall revenues. On this basis, Vice Rackliffe will recommend to FACP that President Becker release the funds set aside for faculty and staff morale. Vice President Rackliffe also reported on the FY2015 budget request from the Board of Regents. The BOR budget includes a decrease of \$45 million of formula funding based on enrollment because of the 31 USG institutions, only 6 increased in enrollment while 25 experienced enrollment declines. Institutions with declining enrollment could expect possible budgets cuts, but GSU is one of the six institutions that grew. Therefore, we do not expect budget cuts for 2015. Vice President Rackcliffe then answered questions from the committee. When asked about faculty and staff raises he reported that he had no definitive answer to that question at this time, but expects raises, if they are approved, to be modest. Another question asked about graduate student insurance, Vice President Rackcliffe reported that \$700 thousand was allotted to offset premium increases prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

5. Lesley Reid reported highlights from the Board of Regents meeting. The most important component of the BOR meeting was the state budget request covered in Vice President Rackliffe's presentation. The Vice Chancellor for Human Resources also presented to the Board of Regents plans for the USG provision of voluntary benefits to all USG institutions. Although the benefits will be greater and the cost less for most USG institutions, it appears that costs may be higher at GSU.

6. Lesley Reid reported that the FACP meeting was brief and CBSAC had not met. One relevant point of information from the Senate Planning and Development was that the GSU Foundation had recently purchased the building at 55 Park Place.

7. Lesley Reid provided updates on Budget subcommittees.

The Graduate Enrollment subcommittee members are Mary Finn (chair), Michelle Brattain, Jennifer Chiovaro, Mary Beth Walker, and Yongsheng Xu.

The Graduate Student Fee subcommittee members are Vincent Rehder (chair), Diane Belcher, Irene Duhaime, Peggy Gallagher, and Jowanna Tillman.

Christine Skwiot will serve as the Budget representative on the MRFF committee.

Margo Brinton will serve as the Budget representative on the Enrollment Management committee.

8. There was no new business.

9. Meeting adjourned.