

University Senate Budget Committee

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

1081 Langdale Hall

3:00 PM

Members Present: JoAnn Bacon, Douglas Covey, Irene Duhaime, Mary Finn, Peggy Gallagher (Laura Fredrick in her stead), Charles Gilbreath, Hugh Hudson, Jeff Lazarus, Tyler Lewis, Ike Okosun, Unil Perera, Jerry Rackliffe, Lesley Reid, Rose Sevcik, Andrew Sumner, Cherian Thachenkary, Jowanna Tillman, Margaret Wilmoth

1. Lesley Reid Called the Meeting to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. BOR Update – Lesley Reid
 - a. Changes to Out of State Tuition Waiver Policy
 - i. Does not appear to change the practices in place at GSU, but does codify use and eligibility requirements.
 - b. 2014 Open Enrollment Report
 - i. The system experienced a 2.3% increase in health benefits enrollment over last year, largely due to eligible employees/dependents enrolling under the ACA. This equates to approximately \$6 million in additional costs, which is less than the projected \$15 million dollar increase.
 - ii. There was a 144% increase in those incurring the tobacco use surcharge.
 - c. Other Issues
 - i. The BOR discussed the system-wide ban on tobacco on campuses to become effective July 2014.
 - ii. The BOR approved the management firm for Phase II of the Science Park.
4. Legislative Update – Hugh Hudson
 - a. The bill allowing for a one-time transfer from ORP to TRS bill (HB 516) will be voted on by the Retirement Committee on January 29th. Faculty and staff are encouraged to contact their legislators to express their opinions about the bill.
 - b. The governor's budget includes a 0.7% salary increase for higher education.
5. CDSAC & FACP Reports – Lesley Reid
 - a. Neither has met since the last SBC meeting.
6. Retiree Health Benefits Issues
 - a. David Chesher, Cherian Thachenkary, and Lesley Reid met with Robert Elmore and Corin Sorteberg to discuss the recent changes to health benefits offered to USG retirees. about the questions and concerns posed by SBC. It was clear that there was little faculty

and staff input before these changes were implemented and there is no room for input at this juncture. Cherian Thachenkary sent a series of follow-up questions to Robert Elmore. He forwarded this to USG staff, but they have yet to be answered. These questions were: How will retiree health care accounts be funded going forward? How will they be indexed to keep up with increases in healthcare costs? Will there be any expected employee contributions? How will the policy be implemented for active employees who have Medicare eligible spouses?

7. MRFF Motion

- a. The Planning and Development Committee presented a bill to codify the MRFF committee in the Senate, as a joint subcommittee of P&D and SBC.
- b. The motion was passed with the friendly amendment that the first sentence of section C be reworded to read: “the purpose of the Major Repairs, Renovations, and Facilities Committee shall be to advise and make recommendations to the president and the university senate regarding university facilities and to provide university leadership with feedback from the faculty and staff...”

8. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Vincent Rehder of the Graduate Student Fees subcommittee indicated that they will have report on graduate student fees for the February SBC meeting.
- b. Mary Finn reported that the Graduate Enrollment subcommittee will have a report by April or May.

9. New Business

- a. No new business was presented.

10. Meeting Adjourned