

Minutes of Senate Budget Committee Meeting
March 11, 2015
CEAR Room (1:00-3:00PM)

In Attendance: Ellen Taylor, Wendy Venet, Mario Feit, Jowanna Tilman, William Long, Tammy Sugarman, Andy Sumner, Michelle Brattain, Oliver Greene, Peggy Gallagher, Mandy Swygart, David Sehat, Margo Brinton, and Vincent Rehder (Recorder)

With Committee Chair, Cherian Thachenkary, unable to attend, Vincent Rehder called the meeting to order at 3:05. A motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2015 meeting was made, seconded, and approved with the comment that the time of adjournment stated for the last meeting needed adjustment.

Professor Sally Robertson (Georgia Perimeter College and Chair, University System of Georgia Faculty Council (USG-FC)) gave a presentation on the history and present role of the USG-FC. The Committee learned that the Faculty Council was started in 2010, meets twice a year, and has 31 representatives from the entire University system. Dr. Laura Frederick is the GSU representative on the Council. The council works on a wide variety of topics related to faculty and their campuses and can move issues for consideration to the Board of Regents. More information can be found on the council's website (http://www.usg.edu/faculty_council/)

Mr. Robert Elmore gave an update and presented a handout on the Anthem System Cyber Attack. He stated that the Board has sent four announcements regarding the attack and that all USG members are covered for 2 years with credit monitoring support. It is presently unclear, which individuals' information was breached but that individuals would be notified once this information is determined. Signing up for credit monitoring as described in prior communications was strongly recommended.

Dr. Gallagher asked about an update on planned changes in health care benefits for current and future retirees. Dr. Elmore pointed out that there would be an information session for all employees on April 6 in the Student Center Ballroom. The plan is to move all current and future retirees 65+ off the Regent's Health Plan to a Market Exchange, which would serve as their secondary health provider, with Medicare Part B becoming the primary health provider.

The Budget Update to be presented by Vice President Jerry Rackliffe was cancelled because the VP was not able to attend the meeting.

Ms. Julie Kerlin, Director of Government and Community Affairs, gave an update on the ongoing legislative session, which is close to crossover day. She pointed out that the FY'16 budget contains 4.9M in bonds in the House Bill for the expansion of Classroom South. She also reported that the bill contained some funding for salary raises. Asked about the Senate Bill 152 concerning the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia, Ms. Kerlin elaborated that retirement bills require a two-year process and that it would not come up before the next year. She provided a link to the TRS website which provides good summaries of the retirement bills.

<http://www.trsga.com/uploads/Legislative%20Update%2003.02.15.pdf>.

Ms. Jowanna Tilman updated the committee on the ongoing work of the Budget subcommittee analyzing the Oklahoma Salary Survey and mentioned that the committee is reviewing the data and will report on their findings in an upcoming meeting.

Dr. Rehder updated the Committee on the two motions from this committee to be voted on during the upcoming Senate Meeting (March 12). The first motion is the Partial Graduate Student Fee Waiver, which was approved by FACP on 2/18/2015. The second motion is to add the Associate Vice President of Facility Management Administration as a non-voting member to the Senate Budget Committee. This motion was approved by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee on 2/19/2015.

Pending Senate approval of the motion regarding the Partial Graduate Student Fee Waiver, Dr. Rehder asked for volunteers interested in serving on a new Budget subcommittee intended to devise strategies on how to best implement the Partial Graduate Student Fee Waiver at GSU. With no volunteers at this time, committee members were asked to indicate their interest by contacting the Budget Committee Chair or Dr. Rehder. There was a question whether a new sub-committee based in Budget was necessary and whether the implementation might not be better handled by the University Administration, such as the office Associate Provost for Graduate Programs, Dr. Lisa Armistead. This issue will be continued at the next Senate Budget Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 2:05PM.