University Senate Budget Committee Meeting

February 19, 2020 at 1:30 pm

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Unil Perera.

Present were: Jeff Steely, Ramesh Vakamudi; Solomon Fesseha, Joe Patterson, Sujay Galen, Joanne Lee-Joyner, Jaye Atkinson, Andrey Shilnikov, Unil Perera, Ian Campbell, Janice Byrd, Sally Wallace, Denise Jenkins.
Web ex participants: Kris Niedringhaus, Mark Flowers, Nancy Kropf, Justen Keeey-Ritchie, Xiaochun He, Michelle Robinson, Eddy Nahmias, Ann Mallard, Dai Dajun, Bala Ramesh

Minutes from the last meeting were approved without corrections.

Ramesh Vakamudi gave an update on the 5 current, major capital projects that are underway or will be commencing in the near future.

- Campus Greenway Project
  - About 1 month behind schedule, but making progress despite all of the rain. It will be a very busy place once it has been completed. Will be completed by the end of May.

- Library North Addition
  - Currently in design phase
  - The pedestrian exit to Langdale Hall will be taken away
  - Cannot finish a portion of the greenspace on the Campus Greenway Project until after this project is complete due to construction access constraints
  - The whole project should be complete by the end of this year or early 2021

- Science Park Phase III
  - Will consist of mainly BSL-2, BSL-3 and BSL-4 (Bio safety Level) research lab space and a few offices
  - This will be the most expensive building the University has ever built at $1,000 per sf
  - We will be the third University to have CDC-level labs like this – University of Texas at Austin and Boston University are the other two

- Convocation Center
  - Will be 132,000 sf - $85.2M project
  - Will be breaking ground in October as long as design elements are complete
  - The funding is set for this project

- T Deck Helix Renovation
  - Project should be done by end of June with ramp re-opening in early Fall
  - Will not alleviate the current “stacking” issue
    - Auburn Avenue, the street car system and MARTA buses are what is causing the stacking
    - The University is looking at alternatives exit options but there are no easy design solutions
Joanne Lee-Joyner reported on the participation results for the ORP vs. TRS plans in previous years.

- As of 2018 participation is about even, but shows decreasing participation with more people choosing TRS over time
- The view of this committee is that TRS will need even more state support to be continued
- We are currently trying to address two issues
  - Level and quality of information being provided to faculty
  - The deceptive appearance of contributions will have more people joining TRS even though they won’t actually get the 21% match
    - If all faculty were to go into the TRS plan it would crash. It has crashed in several other states
- Next steps
  - Get recommendations for changes from this committee
    - Website upgrade with improved information would be useful to new hires
    - State should have incentive to increase participation in ORP to reduce the State burden
    - Lobby administration to increase ORP contributions
    - ORP needs a committee to monitor it similar to the one TRS has
    - Please let Joanne know if you have any other suggestions
  - Complete a draft report from the committee and send to Unil
    - He will circulate it for feedback and once complete he will send it on to Faculty Affairs for their suggestions before going to the full senate

We have a date for the next meeting, however, there isn’t anything currently on the agenda. If you have business you would like included on the agenda, please let Unil know.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jana Ooley.