

Minutes of Senate Budget Committee Meeting

November 5, 2014; 3:00 – 4:35PM

RCB/Manners Room

In attendance: Vice President Ramesh Vakamudi (Guest), Sehat, Venet, Tillman, Bacon, Sevcik, Taylor, Kiage, Walker, Bondarenko, Butler, Lazarus, Feit, Topalli, Barr, Swygart-Hobaugh, Greene, Rehder, and Thachenkary (Recorder).

After approval of the October Minutes, the Chair noted for the record his appreciation to Professor Margo Brinton for volunteering to serve in the Enrollment Management Committee's Annual Conference. There were no updates from the conference.

Associate Vice President Ramesh Vakamudi was then welcomed by the Committee and invited to speak on our campus planning activities. He provided an excellent presentation on our current and future plans for expansion, renovations, move-ins, etc. Of special note was the ground breaking ceremony of the new Petit Science Building, scheduled for December 1, 2014. He also updated the Committee on the move-in schedules for the 25 and 55 Park Place Buildings and also the new College of Law building, which is nearing its completion. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Mr. Vakamudi with a round of applause.

Later, a member inquired about the role of the GSU Foundation and its involvement in our building activities as some of our real estate is owned by the Foundation as opposed to the State. The Chair offered to look into this matter and follow up as needed.

On behalf of Vice President Jerry Rackcliffe, the Chair updated the Committee on fall semester enrollment data: revenues are up about \$250,000 over projections for the fall semester.

The Chair then distributed his own spreadsheet analysis to show that, while health care premiums will change in 2015, the employee share will increase by about 3.6% relative to the employer share in the Comprehensive Care plan, for example. He speculated on whether the ratio of employee to

employer rates could further change in the future, a concern he had raised in the last Senate meeting. He urged members to do their own similar analysis if they are enrolled in other health care plans?

The Chair asked Rehder to update the Committee on the status of his Sub-Committee's Graduate Student Fee Report. He said he is still waiting to obtain some additional but more reliable data from OIR, and so did not have any revisions to report at this time.

Sevcik pointed out that Rehder had already presented his Sub-Committee report to the Senate Research Committee and that her Committee had also endorsed its support to the recommendations contained in the said report

The Chair also brought up the issue of House Bill 516 (a retirement bill) that was tabled on crossover day in the 2014 legislative session, and wondered if GSU should attempt to get this Bill re-introduced? The Bill would have given ORP members a one-time window to return to TRS. The Chair had earlier e-mailed Dr. Becker raising this matter and was waiting to hear his response. He also asked members to study the matter further and participate in a broader conversation with other colleagues who might be impacted.

Another member raised concern about the proposed "biometric screening" that could become part of our wellness initiative, and questioned if its current "voluntary" nature could change in the future and what penalties if any might be imposed for not volunteering, etc.? (A model to watch in this regard would be the recent change to the default setting concerning tobacco use?)

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 4.35 PM.