

Academic Budget Committee
1:00 p.m. 02/27/2014
LSW 552

Committee Members in Attendance: George Foldesy, John Pratte (Chair), William Rowe, Lauri Umansky

Committee Member Absent: William Burns, Russ Jones

Ex Officio in Attendance: Lynita Cooksey, Robin Hicks

Lynita asked to be able to address the committee about several issues that are of concern to Academic Affairs. We need to contain cost, as we have limited resources (state dollars will not increase and tuition increases are limited). She asked for the committee to advise her on some of these issues.

- New faculty lines – do not expect to see any this year. An early retirement plan has been created, but it has still not been approved by System Office. Hope to get this out soon
- Salary equity adjustments – in the past several years, there was a concerted effort to address this with definite dollar amounts. Need to go back to what is proscribed in the Faculty Handbook. One issue deals with having a deadline for applying for this, as the Handbook has nothing. A tentative agreement that January 15th was put out as an acceptable date.
- Travel – The funds for travel are very limited. We need to make sure that we are investing wisely in this. One issue is with the quality of the conferences people are attending (predatory conferences). Another is with the spiraling workload to approve reimbursements because of meals. One suggestion is to stop paying for meals altogether.
- Reassignments – We have a large number of faculty who are on reassignments. We need to look at why this is happening (what are reassigned faculty doing) and how we can handle this. Faculty productivity software would allow us to track what faculty are doing in their reassignments. We need to also look at increasing class size to handle the extra load rather than hiring adjuncts. GA's could help out with larger classes.

Committee members also expressed some concerns with expenditures.

- Cost of using Facilities Management – The quotes from FM are still excessive, and local contractors are far cheaper than using FM. Going this route just sends money out of the University.
- Faculty Housing – There are currently houses in Faculty Housing that are empty. What are the plans for these? No one at the meeting knew.
- Revenue Streams – The University currently has several large projects underway (Convention Center, ASU-Q, DO School). What are the sources for money for these? How much will the University make from them?

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

(Notes from Robin Hicks and John Pratte were used as the basis from this report)