University Budget Advisory Committee

Minutes

Sept. 8, 2023

Attending: Andrew (Drew) Delaney (chair), Alexis Rutt, Brad Hansen, Dan Hubbard, David Fleming, Martina Pugh (student representative), Paul Griggs, Robert (Bob) Rycroft (co-secretary), Sandrine Sutphin, Scott Gerseny (co-secretary), Smita Jain Oxford, Tim O'Donnell (Provost)

- The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm or 12:07 pm depending on what you consider the beginning of the meeting to be.
- Everyone introduced themselves including Tim O'Donnell
- Time O'Donnell was given the floor. He initially responded to some questions that had been sent over before the meeting and then took some questions from the committee.
    - Overview of budget year – Feels good about where we are at right now. This year $2.3 million reduction from Provost offices. Overall $6 million. Faculty early retirement program netted $1.1 million (funded from reserves). $1.2 million from other reserves and elimination of some vacancies. For example, the Provost's office is smaller this year
    - Where Does the Report Go? – The President, CFO and Provost all see it. It is helpful in determining priorities. For example, a previous report led to an increase in disability funding.
    - Last year's recommendations – Were not able to do them all; some more funding for mental health and police; helped Provost in talks with the President; utilization study of library. No justification for extended library hours now; making library more accessible will require major building renovation sometime in the future
    - Outlook for Faculty funding – Not able to restore full faculty research funding; Was able to restore faculty 500's, supplemental, undergraduate research. Restoration cannot be considered permanent.
    - Concerns for the budget in the future – State has provided incentives to hit certain targets; we have not hit our targets for computer science graduates partly because of enrollment drop; Cost escalation in maintenance costs of new Science equipment; Concerned budget cuts will impact Academic Affairs; If we continue to be prudent, we can make it through; Cash balances good; Will be focusing on projections that will be increasingly precise; We have received increased funding for Pell grants
    - Budgetary implications of reorganization – The Deans and Chairs have just formed a working group; group will report in a couple of weeks; reorganization offers only limited opportunities for savings; Advancement and Recruitment is where the money is

- o What do changes in FAFSA mean for our future? At this point, it is too early to tell. New FAFSA will be easier for students, but has not been released yet; FAFSA will be released later than usual, we will not be able to get offers out prior to March 1 (compared to February 1 in past), we may lose students to CC who do not want to wait; since every institution in the same boat it will neither help nor hurt us; will make year to year comparisons more difficult; We have more Pell funds to help us through it;
  - o What sort of reorganization is likely? – Tim does not have a clear idea at this stage; bringing some balance to our unbalanced colleges important. Service load in particular is unbalanced; Can we do it in such a way as to elevate programs by emphasizing our strengths; some programs are in jeopardy; we cannot protect them like in the past; may allow us to create some new and more attractive programs; we will allow students to complete the programs they are in and have teach-out plans; maybe we can use reorganization to create some attractive programs; more information will be available next week on reorganization; we will take into account "cultural" and melding issues in reorganizing.
  - o President Paino has been very effective in making our case with SCHEV and Richmond; we are likely to get back $2 million; 2% faculty and staff raise in the offing; there will be more money for nursing; will buy Mixed Use building some no more paying rent and having a home for the police
- ▪ The meeting adjourned about 12:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Rycroft

Co-Secretary