

Budget Council
Minutes
October 8, 2007
1-3 PM
202 Tigert

Attendees:

Frank Bova
Regina Bussing
Janie Fouke
Christy Lemak
David Mulkey
Kathie Price
Allen Wysocki

Guests:

Elizabeth Bolton
Angel Kwolek Folland
Elizabeth Dale

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

The council discussed involvement in the budget process in CLAS and IFAS.

Elizabeth Dale discussed the budget process in CLAS. The college has an overall budget and department budgets. The department chairs have an annual review and budget talk with the dean in January to get an idea to the budget for the coming year. At the beginning of the academic year departments talk to the dean to discuss budget allocations. Last fall, the college created a permanent finance committee to review the budget at the college level. The CLAS budget committee has 9 members: 6 elected (2 from each section) and three appointed for three year terms. All departments have or are developing merit plans.

Elizabeth Bolton discussed the budget process in IFAS. There is not a constitution for IFAS yet and there is not a proposed budget council in the constitution. There is a strategic plan policy that addresses budget issues and putting faculty in a consulting role. The IFAS budget comes from the legislature and goes to the senior vice president. The SVP is in charge of all faculty positions, utilities and teaching. The money is then allocated to the deans of research, extension and teaching. The deans use the money for operations. Faculty are involved at the unit level process to the extent that the chair allows them or wants them to be involved. There is not much relationship between deans and chairs. The faculty council talks to the SVP about issues.

The council discussed possible future involvement of budget council:
Create a university wide procedure for budget at the unit level?
Make a model for how units are to make budgets?

The council also discussed the definition of input.

The council agreed that even with faculty councils, department level budgets are very different in the level of input and consultative role with faculty. Frank process needs to be limited to evaluation.

The cost cutting committee should report to budget council and provide an update on their progress and recommendations. The cost cutting committee is not doing things to change personnel issues but is trying to find problematic area where we paying to duplicate services.

Update on FAQ questions and responses to date

The council has received 3 or 4 questions and is developing answers to those questions.

Update on State Budget session

There is a state increase of 5% for undergraduate tuition starting in January.

Dr. Fouke asked for suggestions for allocating one time money to soften cuts.

The budget council suggested that colleges should “compete” for the money by meeting strategic goals and working towards priorities such as diversity and elimination of duplication.

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 PM