

Planning, Budget, and Facilities Committee  
Meeting, September 19, 2008 1:00 pm, Solms Hall room 106

Present: Suzy Carpenter, Rebecca Carroll, David Carson, Suzanne Edenfield, Sean Eastman, Doug Frazier, Kam Lau, Mike Mahan, Michael Mink, Stephen Primatic, David Wheeler, Ellen Whitford

Absent: Shelley Conroy, Vickie McNeil

1. Dates for the next two meetings were set: Friday, October 10 and Friday, November 21 at 1pm. We intend to meet in Solms Hall 106.
2. Dr. Wheeler suggested that our committee participate in a faculty forum; the committee agreed that a faculty forum is an appropriate venue for disseminating information about the budget to the faculty. Dr. Whitford initiated a discussion concerning what topics might be the most important to present at the forum. Ideas included: Planning for FY 2010, budget cuts for FY 2009, and a general informational session regarding the budget, including rules and regulations.
3. Mr. Carson briefed the committee on the current state of the budget, noting in particular that the state is currently 6.8% behind in collections. A handout detailing the budget calendar for FY 2009 and planning for FY 2010 was distributed. Ms. Carroll announced that the budget calendar would be posted online by Friday, Sept. 26, either on the VP for business and finance website, or linked from the VPAA website.
4. Dr. Whitford informed the committee that the Governor gives a budget estimate in November, and Mr. Carson stated that there may be a budget conference sometime later this month; however, no definite scheduling information was available at this time. Dr. Whitford agreed to forward the current Board of Regents budget guidelines to Dr. Wheeler.
5. At this point, general conversation about the budget process ensued. Dr. Whitford remarked that all budget requests must be in line with the University System's strategic plan. Mr. Frazier asked for clarification with regards to the base budget and formula funding and commented that many people don't understand how this works. It was suggested that an explanation of different budget components be a part of the faculty forum discussion. Ms. Carpenter inquired as to whom and what is involved in the budget cut process. Mr. Carson mentioned President Jones, the Vice Presidents, and various specialists. He described the process as one of information gathering and sharing, and that decisions were never hastily made. Dr. Whitford mentioned that the system office sent a template for how to achieve the cuts. It was also noted that word from the system office changes fairly regularly. Dr. Lau inquired about the flow of grant money, and indirect costs in particular. He also inquired about the technology fee, as many students have voiced concern about how this fee is used, as they don't see direct improvements due to the fee. Mr. Carson suggested that this question be directed to John McGuthry.
6. Dr. Wheeler asked the committee to review the budget calendar and make suggestions as to which action items the committee could be of assistance. Dr. Whitford and Ms. Carroll agreed to discuss this matter and determine some dates for committee input on planning for FY 2010.
7. Dr. Primatic inquired about student recruitment. Dr. Whitford gave a short explanation of how recruitment money is spent, including recent recruiting in Atlanta.
8. At the next meeting, Mr. Carson will present a breakdown of last year's budget, stating that it's essentially the same (in form) as the current year.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Eastman, MATH  
Secretary