University Senate Budget Committee
Thursday, July 15, 2010
315 Alumni Hall
3:00 pm

Members Present: JoAnn Bacon, Julie Dangel, Dabney Dixon, Peggy Gallagher, Jerry Rackliffe, Mary Ann Romski, Rose Sevcik, Sarah Steiner, Jowanna Tillman, Katherine Willoughby

Meeting Minutes

Katherine Willoughby called the meeting to order and asked members to review the attached handout that includes a proposed SBC meeting schedule for the upcoming academic year along with ideas for SBC input to FACP re: budget deliberations and development. Members agreed that monthly meetings can facilitate greater understanding about budget issues as well as provide time for SBC to prepare considered reaction and feedback to subsequent FACP meetings. It was noted that unnecessary meetings can and will be cancelled. The handout also listed and described possible advancements to SBC capacity and input strategies to FACP, including: establishing a standing subcommittee for research, a university-wide online survey regarding budget issues/priorities, focus groups, university-wide brown bag lunches and an upgrade to the SBC homepage. Members noted that creation of ad hoc research committees has worked effectively in the past and should be continued; a standing committee will not add capacity. And, use of any online surveys should be conducted only sparingly. Of the other avenues listed, an upgrade to the SBC homepage online was considered to provide an efficient means to improve communication about budget issues across the University. Katherine will investigate getting a first stage upgrade to the page accessible by the start of the fall 2010 semester. The usefulness of focus groups and brown bag lunches for information exchange and to receive input from the University community was acknowledged as helpful, but probably duplicative to SBC member efforts already.

Jerry Rackliffe emphasized that FACP looks to the SBC to generate ideas to support budget development and especially to accommodate the ongoing economic recession and its impacts on the University System budget, generally. He noted that many ideas could be presented online at the SBC homepage given any upgrade. When members asked about the current budget situation and the possibility of furloughs in the coming year, Jerry explained that the hope is that furloughs are unnecessary, though this budget cut strategy cannot be ruled out.

Katherine noted that she will craft the results from the three SBC meetings this summer regarding SBC input into University budget development and process into a briefing report. The report will be sent to SBC electronically for edits and approval via Email, before any presentation to FACP at the August 2010 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.