University Senate Budget Committee
Minutes
Thursday, November 11, 1999


The meeting was called to order at 1:04.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 9, 1999 meeting were approved.

II. Consideration of Budgeting Principles Document

The committee reviewed the proposed Budgeting Principles developed by the Priorities and Principles Subcommittees and recommended several modifications to the draft. Following discussion, the Committee unanimously approved the revised draft. A copy is attached.

III. FY00 Update and FAC-P Issues

Jerry Rackliffe provided an update on the FY00 budget, and Tom Lewis discussed issues coming before the legislature in 2000, including the health care shortfall, semester conversion revenue effect, and general Regents appropriation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55.

Budgeting Principles and Guidelines

The budget of a university is a major tool for achieving the objectives of the university's strategic plan in a fiscally responsible manner. The budget should be built on a set of universally accepted core principles. The principles should address the use of financial resources and provide guidance for funding decisions in case of changes in financial support for the university. To these ends, this document presents three sections.

Core Principles:

1. The budget should be balanced on an annual basis.
2. The budget should provide for strategic investment to enhance the quality of existing programs and to develop new initiatives.
3. The budget process should explore ways to use resources more efficiently and effectively.
4. Budget planning and development should be grounded in careful analysis of relevant data such as academic and administrative reviews and include relevant assessment and accountability measures to gauge progress toward achieving the strategic plan and its goals.
5. The university's most valuable resource is its personnel.

Principles Governing the Use of Resources:

In order to use scarce resources to achieve excellence, GSU will

1. Articulate missions for its academic and administrative units and align resources with intended missions.
2. Expect accountability.
3. Develop performance indicators (measures of productivity) as appropriate to each unit's mission. Performance indicators should include qualitative and quantitative measures, and should, whenever possible, focus on outcomes.
4. Link the budget to performance measures.
5. Focus on our most valued resource, people, by offering competitive salaries and benefits to retain and attract high caliber personnel.
6. Maintain the University's investment in its existing infrastructure.

Conservancy in redirection or budget reductions:

The University's Strategic Plan and the above principles should guide the University's decisions in budget decreases as they would in the allocation of funding increases. The University should be willing to consider all options as supported by data, including across-the-board redirection and/or targeted redirection. The academic and administrative...
units should likewise be guided by the University's Strategic Plan and their own strategic plans in dealing with any budget reductions.