

**University of Utah
Faculty Budget and Planning Advisory Committee
Annual Report
2008-2009**

1. Committee Membership: James Anderson; Hank Bessembinder; Barbara Cox, Marlene Egger; Nancy Lombardo (chair), Bob Nelson, Marlene Plumlee, Terry Ring

2. Meetings:

August 29, 2008 Committee members meet and plan strategy for the year

September 12, 2008 Meet with Dave Pershing, VP for Academic Affairs, to discuss rumors of 2% budget cuts, UU-Dixie College collaboration, University Master Plan with development of Rice-Eccles parking area, SCH productivity model, accounting and returned overhead and the Capital Campaign.

October 10, 2008 Meet with Paul Brinkman, Associate VP for Budget & Planning, to discuss the many ways the economic crisis would impact the U. At this time, 4% University wide budget cuts were discussed. The committee offered suggestions for methods of fairly distributing this burden. It was noted that another 4% would be cut the following year.

November 3, 2008 The committee was invited to attend the Academic Senate Meeting to contribute to the discussion of the impending budget cuts, which were still 4% this year with additional 4% next at that time. The committee did a short, informal survey of faculty perceptions and suggestions relating to the budget cuts. The results were reported to the Senate body.

December 12, 2008 Committee met with Arnie Combe, VP for Administrative Services, and Jon Shear, Chief Investment Officer, to discuss management of the endowment investments.

January 6, 2009 Meet with Dave Pershing and Paul Brinkman to discuss increases in budget cuts to include an additional 7.5% this year, on top of the 4% already requested. For 09/10 fiscal year, there is a suggestion that we cut 15%, which will essentially be a 19% cut in state funds. The committee provided advice and feedback on the general process by which the cuts would be administered. Issues discussed included: tuition cuts, SCH funding, athletics, and buildings. It was highly recommended by the committee that the lines of communication remain open and that the administration emphasize the need for budget within departments.

January 21, 2009 Budget Transparency Resolution presented to Executive Committee of the Academic Senate - Passed Unanimously (See attached)

February 2, 2009 Budget Transparency Resolution presented to the Academic Senate - Passed by vote

February 5, 2009 Met with Dave Pershing and Paul Brinkman to discuss the budget cuts in more detail.

February 25, 2009 The committee and selected invited faculty members met with Dr. Betz, Senior VP for the Health Sciences to discuss impact of budget cuts on the Health Sciences. Dr. Betz explained the separation of the SoM? budget from that of the other colleges. Both budgets would be experiencing the cuts. Additional cuts to SoM? were imminent due to changes in Medicaid funding. Overall methods for dealing with the cuts were similar to those on the main campus.

April 1, 2009 Committee held final meeting with Dave Pershing and Paul Brinkman for this fiscal year. A 9.5% cut for fiscal year 09-10 was discussed in detail. Criteria for determining the cuts by department were explained. Other plans were covered, such as administrative cuts, early retirement and Medi-Gap programs, and projections for the 10-11 budgets. Committee members expressed some concern about the message to the public regarding the cuts and how they are impacting the U. It was agreed that the message must take care not to emphasize decrease in quality, while making clear the sacrifices taking place.

3. Considerations: The clear focus of the committee this academic year was to advise the administration on the severe budget cuts being implemented. The committee maintained a very aggressive meeting schedule and found the administration to be very interested in hearing their views. We appreciated the value placed on our feedback by both Dave Pershing and Paul Brinkman in particular. They were both anxious to meet with the committee as soon as new information was received from the legislature. The committee found these meeting to be honest, challenging and productive.

4. Recommendations

The FBPAC recommends that this committee:

- continue its regular meeting schedule with appropriate vice presidents, but in particular with Dave Pershing and Paul Brinkman, in order to ensure that the faculty voice continues to be heard as the University endures these difficult economic times.
- be utilized in a pro-active way to help shape the plans for the larger cuts next year
- be utilized in a pro-active way to help shape the message to the public and the legislature regarding how these cuts are impacting us
- consider ways to engage the press to provide more public information about the budget issues
- continue to emphasize the need for budget transparency as difficult budgetary challenges are managed

**Faculty Budget and Planning Advisory Committee
Academic Senate - Budget Transparency Resolution
February 2, 2009**

Whereas faculty confidence in financial decisions is paramount to organizational commitment during times of budgetary strains, and

Whereas faculty may be called upon to participate in extraordinary efforts including salary cuts or reductions in force to reduce budgetary shortfalls, and

Whereas the principle of fairness has to be clearly evidenced in financial decision-making;

Be it resolved that the Academic Senate calls on University administration, college deans, and department chairs to practice transparency in financial matters and plans for budget cuts, by opening their budgets to faculty review through readily accessible means, providing information on revenue streams and the personnel and activities supported by them.

Nancy Lombardo, Chair, Faculty Budget and Planning Advisory Committee