

Senate Budget & Planning Council
Minutes for September 17, 2013
Room 107h, Cheng Library

Members present: D. Miller, J. Matthew, H. Wilder, B. McClosky, D. Potacco, R. Soto, S. Bolyai (administrative rep)
Absent: J. Lee, R. Fosberg

Meeting convened: 1:00pm

1. Charges from the Faculty Senate were read to the council by Senate Vice-Chair S. Dinan. In addition to the standing charges, the council was asked this year to:
 - *Vet the Fall Budget report in conjunction with the Planning Council, and report to the full Senate in timely manner. (Please report to the Senate on this matter by 12 November 2013)*
 - *Examine college and university policies on travel support for faculty.*
 - *Work with Research and Scholarship Council to survey current faculty needs in areas highlighted by informal 2012 survey (e.g., summer funding of scholarship for both faculty and students, see last year's final report) and in areas brought up in SRSC recommendations to the SPI Team (e.g., incentives for external funding, see document to SPI team in SRSC minutes).*
 - *Engage in the Strategic Plan implementation process, particularly for the upcoming 2015 budget process, and provide opportunities to inform and update faculty and professional staff on the Strategic Plan impact on university budget decisions. NOTE: this charge would be a continuation of council activities from last year when we co-sponsored a budget planning workshop for the academic department chairs.*
 - *Participate in the development of facility plans as related to academic areas, It is recommended that the council look for ways to have input into the proposals for state bond funds for capital expenses and liaison with the Facilities advisory committee and the IT advisory committee. NOTE: this charge was withdrawn due to the fact that these proposals have already been submitted at this point.*
 - *Keep track of classroom plans (number, size, and configuration) in the new building that will replace the Coach House, and provide recommendations for adjusting such plans as needed. NOTE: this charge was withdrawn due to the fact that plans have already been finalized – S. Bolyai was asked by S. Dinan to point us to the documents which contain this information so that it may be shared with faculty and staff.*
2. H. Wilder was elected as chair of the council by a vote of 6-0.
3. J. Matthew asked about the impact that the 120-credit decision had on the budget. S. Bolyai explained that it had only been two years, so hard to know the long-term impact, but so far there had been no significant decrease in tuition income that would justify not keeping the graduation requirement at this level.
4. S. Bolyai reminded the council that recent and upcoming policies that are being enacted at the federal and state level will have an impact on our budget. In particular, federal and state requirements will place a greater focus on 1) increase retention and 2) increased

four-year graduation rates, and any budget requests will have to be justified along these two conditions.

5. S. Bolyai also pointed out that demographically, the population of high-school seniors is shrinking nationwide, however New Jersey is traditionally less affected by this due to the continuing influx of children from recent immigrant families. However, NJ does risk losing students to neighboring states and needs to combat the state's historic trend of exporting college students. D. Potacco observed that according to the NSSE report discussed at the Senate meeting last year, there were quite a few students who noted that they needed to leave the university due to work, other commitments, and/or because they had moved and that we should consider online alternatives to accommodate these and other students. However H. Wilder noted that the majority of these programs have extremely high attrition rates and would require rigorous self-regulated learning skills for many of our undergraduate students who attempt to juggle full-time jobs while attending college.
6. Meeting times for October were discussed and Tuesday or Thursday mornings or common hours seem to work best for most. H. Wilder will send out a Doodle for best day/time.
7. S. Bolyai will send the budget calendar so that the council can plan for a workshop for academic chairs and academic program directors well in advance of when they need to submit their budgets.

Meeting adjourned: 2:00pm

H. Wilder, Minute taker