

William Paterson University Faculty Senate Councils
Year-End Report

Academic Year 2021-2022

- 1. Council: Senate Budget & Planning Council**
- 2. Council Members:** Atolla Budd, Will de Veyga, Iris DiMaio, Djanna Hill, Payton MacDonald, Judy Matthew, Jill Nocella, Siamack Shojai, Elizabeth Victor
- 3. Council Charges and Summary of Activities:**

Standing Charges:

1. Work with the administration in establishing the budget for each fiscal year.
2. Determine fiscal priorities for the budget based on the university's mission and core values.
3. Recommend ways to enhance attendance and involvement of students, faculty, staff at campus wide budget meetings.
4. Work with the Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and University Relations to prepare a clear report of the 2021-2022 budget status at the university to be presented to the Faculty Senate.

Priority Charges for AY 2021-2022:

1. Work with the administration in establishing the budget for each fiscal year
2. Recommend ways to enhance attendance and involvement of students, faculty, staff at campus wide budget meetings

2021-2022 Summary of Activities:

The focus of this year was on university budget, planning and finance. Discussion regarding the need for greater transparency related to how the university budget is developed took place throughout the year, and it was proposed that a Council co-chair or a representative from the Council would participate in meetings as outlined in the Council 2020-2021 Year-End Report, and the budget process document discussed at the October 20, 2021 meeting. The FY 22 budget calendar document was marked up by the co-chairs and sent to Tim Lever and Will de Veyga on October 20, 2021 with the expectation that the administration would offer suggestions as to how best to incorporate a representative from the Council into different steps of the budget development and approval process. The administration rejected this prior agreement and suggestions of how we could be involved as outlined in the October 20th email correspondence. The administration also rejected compromises to Council representative participation, such as short regular updates from Will de Veyga to the Council co-chairs; the reject of compromise positions was detailed in emails dated February 22-24, 2022. Throughout the academic year, the Council members had little access to budget documents. Most notably, the Council did not have access to the draft budget in advance of the Fall or Spring budget forums, even after repeated requests to President Helldobler via email on October 4, 2021 for access to the budget documents in advance of the forum, as was past precedent. In addition,

the Council requested extensions of the detailed data from the Spring 2020 budget forum presentation, which was requested again after the April 12, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting, as documented in emails between the co-chairs of the Senate Budget & Planning Council, the SEC, de Veyga, and President Helldobler. The Council received no response to the original inquiry for this data sent on November 22, 2021, nor did the Council receive responses to other requested information, as detailed in the November 22, 2021 email inquiry, nor did the Council ever receive detailed reserve data as requested during the October 20, 2021 meeting.

In light of the administration's response, the Council members developed and deployed a survey to all faculty, pro-staff, and librarians to garner feedback on how stakeholders prefer to receive and provide input on the university budget. This survey was a collaborative effort from the Council members and the chair and co-chair of the Faculty Senate. At the April 12th Faculty Senate meeting, Liz Victor, Council co-chair of the Budget & Planning Council, presented a report of survey results and key budget data trends based on university data as detailed from the Spring 2020 budget forum presentation and President sent to the SEC and Council co-chairs sent on October 29, 2021 to the SEC. In light of President Helldobler's response to this data, Victor later followed up with a statement read into the minutes of the April 26, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting.

4. Recommended Charges for the Next Academic Year:

1. Work with the administration in establishing the budget for each fiscal year.
2. Determine fiscal priorities for the budget based on the university's mission and core values.
3. Recommend ways to enhance attendance and involvement of students, faculty, staff at campus wide budget meetings.
4. Work with the Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and University Relations to prepare a clear report of the 2021-2022 budget status at the university to be presented to the Faculty Senate.

5. Please provide suggestions for how the council can be better utilized in the next year:

1. Conduct periodic surveys of the faculty as needed
2. Outreach/share information with other Senate Councils as appropriate