

University Budget Advisory Committee

Minutes – 8/27/2020 meeting

Voting members present: Nabil Al-Tikriti (Chair, At-large)
Stephen Davies (Secretary, At-large)
Laura Bylenok (CAS)
Liane Houghtalin (CAS)
Kyle Schultz (COE)
Suzanne Sumner (At-large)

Voting members absent: Representative from the College of Business

Non-voting members present: Michelle Pickham (Staff Advisory Council President)

Non-voting members absent: Representative from Athletics, Health & Physical Education
Representative from the Student Government Association

Summary of discussion:

1. Regarding committee membership, the group made the following decisions/announcements:
 - (a) Drs. Al-Tikriti and Davies were chosen by acclamation to continue in their roles as committee chair and secretary, respectively, for another year.
 - (b) Patrick Catullo (UMW Athletic Director) will be on the committee this year as the representative from Athletics, Health, and Physical Education.
 - (c) The committee is still in need of a representative from the College of Business, and a student representative. Dr. Al-Tikriti will contact the appropriate parties to solicit these representatives.
2. Dr. Al-Tikriti reviewed the committee's work last year for the newcomers. Obviously, the pandemic radically changed all aspects of the university, including its budget, to the point where we are in a very precarious position moving forward. Before Covid hit, the news was relatively optimistic, and the committee members learned a great deal about the current budget situation and who the key administrators were who were responsible for the various areas.
3. Overall, the committee felt that the administration made the only good choices they could in response to the pandemic. Two key tenets the administration has been devoted to, and which the committee wholeheartedly supports, are:
 - (a) Any salary cuts should be progressive in nature (*i.e.*, those with higher salaries should have a higher percentage cut than those with lower salaries).
 - (b) Any salary cuts should be temporary in nature, and must be re-evaluated in the coming academic year.
4. Dr. Al-Tikriti stated that our first order of business this fall will be to get up to speed on the decisions that those on twelve-month contracts made during the summer.
5. The tentative plan is to reserve Thursdays at 3:30pm (except the second Thursday of the month) for committee meetings. However, because we're in unprecedented times, we don't know for sure how often we'll meet, and must remain flexible.
6. In the near term, we will plan to meet next week to discuss the expected administrative announcements about how this fall semester will play out. Dr. Al-Tikriti will invite Vice President for Finance Paul Messplay to join us for this meeting.

Action items:

- Ask Paul Messplay to attend next week's meeting. (Al-Tikriti)
- Contact COB about appointing a member to the AY 2020-2021 committee, and copy Don Lee (UFOC chair) on the communication. (Al-Tikriti)
- Ask Kyree Ford (SGA President) to appoint a student representative, and copy Don Lee (UFOC chair) on the communication. (Al-Tikriti)