

University Budget Advisory Committee

Minutes

Sept. 15, 2023

Attending: Andrew (Drew) Delaney (chair), Alexis Rutt, Brad Hansen, Dan Hubbard, David Fleming, Martina Pugh (student representative), Patrick Catullo (*ex-officio*), Robert (Bob) Rycroft (co-secretary), Sandrine Sutphin, Scott Gerseny (co-secretary), Smita Jain Oxford, Chief Hall

- The meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm
- Welcome and introductions of each member and Chief Hall
- Chief Hall
 - Expressed that following COVID and budget cuts that took place there is no room for cuts as they are currently staffed at the most minimal level
 - Minimum staffing is currently at 12 and we are currently at 11
 - In previous years there were 19 positions
 - \$500,000 has been spent on blue lights in previous years. He expressed that upgrades and replacements of \$150,000 annually is necessary to keep all lights and cameras functioning properly. These funds would be for these cameras/lights only and not the general police operating budgets.
 - Police Officers request
 - 5 positions were cut following COVID
 - 3 positions are being requested currently
 - 2 positions were cut to increase salary of current officers along with increasing sign on bonuses
 - These positions are justified because of the need after normal working hours on campus. Anything and everything that happens on campus after normal working falls on the police officers to deal with themselves.
 - Training budget is needed to because of the necessity of officers continuing to train and adapt with new challenges.
 - Equipment budget would include shields and vests
 - MDT are more than 6 years old and need to be replaced
 - Chief Hall expressed the unique situation of the police force that it is a 365 day, 24 hour job that requires the necessary funding to operate successfully as there is great risk if it is not operating well.
 - Chief Hall expressed that they are in order based on the document but that there is room for exchanging things if it is possible to parcel out items he would be open to that conversation.

- It was asked what Chief Hall meant by the weapons being previously “upgraded”. Chief Hall expressed that the better term to use is that the weapons have been “replaced” weapons that would nearing the 10 year mark of standard replacement.
- It was asked whether the request of salary made on the provided document would be enough to actually hire 3 officers knowing that the job market is tough to hire.
- Chief Hall noted that the ask of 305k on his request includes benefits and retirement benefits that align with the policing industry.
- It was asked for Chief Hall to describe in more detail what situations arise when you are understaffed. He expressed that often times there scenarios when officers are working by themselves which is not ideal. Shifts have to be all staggered which is not ideal. The ideal situation is to have 12 officers to be able to cover all hours and all days but that only happens when no one calls out sick or cannot work at a given time. When even 1 officer is unable to work the campus is not covered as it should be.
- Chief Hall also expressed that when we were at 19 officers the University was actually saving money based on turnover rate and training needed for officers to become fully operational.
- Chief Hall highlighted that Universities are very challenged right now with mental health issues and that Police officers along with Faculty and staff are all challenged to deal with the issues more and more. He would like more funding to be able to push these issues further so there is a better understanding of them from all parties involved.

Respectfully,
Scott Gerseny
Co-Secretary