The 2016-17 Faculty Senate Budget Committee spent much of its time researching and analyzing the conditions influencing the 16-17 budget. While there was great anxiety about the budget the previous year, this academic year started as a relatively worry-free environment. There were no mandates or reviews from the Senate. The Committee spent their time researching and learning about the budget issues from last year, in fulfillment of its charge as stated in the FAM: “To review College policies relating to long-range financial planning, budget preparation and the allocation of funds within budget categories, and to recommend policy changes” and to “review each annual College budget.”

Most of the committee’s work was done in the spring when it was apparent from reports from the Provost and Vice President of Admissions, that the college may not make its projected numbers for freshmen from out of state and in state. As a result, the committee was very active in discussing concerns and making suggestions to the Provost about how he was to make cuts to the Academic Affairs budget.

The committee continued its work with the Deans of the academic units by inviting them to present the “status of their schools”. Two meetings were used to discuss what should be presented, and afterwards, what was presented that might help the committee inform the faculty and its constituents.

In May and June, the Chair of the committee observed the Board of Trustee’s Budget and Finance committee meetings. Similar to last year, the committee was given a seat at the table for the discussions, but was inactive during the discussions. The committee’s recommendations and concerns were relayed to Provost McGee.

The Budget Committee will be more proactive for fiscal 2017-18 in order to advise the Provost and Board of Trustees about the concerns and moral of the faculty as they relate to monetary issues.