Faculty Senate Budget Committee
Minutes of the December 17, 2015 Meeting

Committee Members Attending:
Julia Eichelberger (Chair)
Calvin Blackwell
Doug Friedman
Courtney Murren
Thomas Ross
Martha Stackel
William Veal
Brian McGee, Provost, *ex officio* member

1. The Committee briefly discussed the minor in Information Management. The Committee approved the proposal.
2. The Committee discussed the latest round of budget cuts with Provost McGee. He informed the committee that:
   a. He will meet with the Dean’s council on December 17 to discuss the ideas the Deans have generated to deal with the current budget shortfall.
   b. In the first week of January, the President will discuss the budget with the senior leadership team.
   c. The President has asked that all identified cuts be finalized by January 20, 2015.
   d. The Provost would like to discuss the proposed cuts with the Budget Committee sometime between January 5 and January 10. He intends to provide the Committee with a list of proposed cuts prior to that meeting.
   e. The Provost has been busy identifying vacancies, including visiting positions, end of year retirements, one year appointments, and staff positions in which the person in that position is still on probation.
   f. The Board of Trustees will meet in late January, and will approve the President’s new budget at that meeting.
3. The Committee then discussed a variety of issues with the Provost:
   a. The Committee requested to see the list of proposed cuts. The Provost indicated he would provide the Committee with the cuts he intends to propose as well as other potential cuts discussed with the Deans: “I will show you the chessboard.”
   b. Adjunct budgets are run in an unusual manner. According to the Provost, only 40% of expenses for adjuncts are budgeted on a recurring basis; the remaining spending is funded with lapsed salary. The challenges of handling adjuncts as part of the budget were discussed, including the challenge of scheduling courses before a budget is approved, and the difficulties in adjusting class sizes as a way to lower costs. Ideas to improve the handling of the adjunct budget were discussed, including decentralizing the adjunct budget.
   c. A variety of suggestions for cutting costs were presented, including eliminating computer classrooms, reforming the computer replacement program, eliminating land lines, and firing former administrators and TERI participants
   d. The absence of faculty representation in major budget decisions. The Committee discussed asking the President to include the Speaker of the Faculty in major budget discussion/decisions. The Provost indicated his support for such a proposal. The Committee decided to draft a memo to the President asking him to include the Speaker as part of the senior leadership team’s discussions of the College budget. This memo will also include a request to the President to direct all units at the College to provide the Committee with budget information.
   e. The upcoming year’s timeline. The Provost plans to ask the Deans to provide their schools proposed budgets to him by mid-February. These plans will be provided to the Committee.
The Provost indicated that it might be useful to have the Deans meet with the Committee to discuss individual budgets. The Committee indicated its willingness to meet with the Deans, and requested access to meetings of the Deans’ Council at which the budget will be discussed.

f. The Provost indicated that the President is willing to meet with the Committee again, and would be willing to bring the CFO to that meeting. The Committee discussed what to address in such a meeting. The upcoming special Faculty Senate meeting regarding the budget was discussed and how that meeting could inform future conversations with the President.

g. The Provost indicated that the College is examining the feasibility of purchasing the King George Inn on George Street. The Provost provided an update on the College’s purchase of the Lockwood property.

Respectfully submitted,

Calvin Blackwell
Temporary Secretary