Minutes Budget Committee
1/11/16
ECTR 228
Agenda

1. Approve old minutes, get someone to take minutes for today.

2. Discuss Provost’s Plans for budget cuts.
   **Next Year Budget:** Challenge for next year will involve a range of issues. What is our resident and non-resident mix? Will there be more recurrent state funding? We are seeking more recurring funds.
   Tuition: We are trying to get from the Board an earlier decision on tuition costs so that we can budget better and earlier. Increase level is between 2-3%. Apply only to in-state undergraduates. We need guidance from Board in January for planning.
   We must continue our obligations due to inflation. For example, we must fund any state mandated increase by the legislature.
   Example: State may ask employees to pay more for pensions. This would mean CofC would have to pay more for the pension and then more for the salary increase, which would likely come with the pension change.
   Budget for next year will have to wait until Friday, January 29 after the Board meets.
   How many are on TIAA-CREF or State Pension plan? All staff are State Pension.
   Budget planning – Do we need a better cushion based upon our projections? Should the margin be built up?
   Non-recurring money from tuition does not build up over years. It is used for special projects.

Budget Committee will meet Monday, February 1 and Wednesday, March 2.

**Mid-Year Cuts:** Discussion ensued. Themes and ideas were discussed.
Discussion focused on Operating and Personnel items. Operating cuts are slightly higher due to fringes not being included. More needed to be cut from Operating items. These are recurring cuts. Proposed cuts were not equal across items/areas and there was no blanket percentage. The decisions were painfully made by input from Deans and Provost.
Budget re-allocation process and percentages within Academic Schools will be given as a result of these cuts.
Some of these cuts will have to be re-funded in future years. Are these proposed cuts permanent? How long is permanent?
Ideas from the Budget Committee – Phone lines for faculty, program fees within Academic Units, and study abroad (tier structure for type of program). 700 enrollments a year for non-academic students. For example, retired people get reduced and free courses, but it costs money to register them. Study abroad. The fee we charge has not changed in a while. We can sustain 33-34% non-resident students. We were at 37%. There hopefully will be stability starting in FY17. No decisions have been made about expanding the number of students beyond 10,000. There will be discussion based upon serving the local community with the increase in population. This might be influenced by facilities, online offerings, and mission. We have about 1% online set of courses. Compared to Coastal Caroline that has about 25% of courses in fall and spring online. Provost reemphasized our liberal arts mission. Selectivity for in-state students is increasing. CofC is dedicated to quality.

One opinion stated was that the decreases proposed represent a decrease in emphasis in the face-to-face student interaction. For example, the reduction in URCA and Faculty R&D might be perceived as narrowing the focus of the university away from students. Proposed operating cuts are potentially damaging for the mission of the university. Some Academic Schools might need to show more transparency with their own budget cuts and recommendations.

Other cuts from other University Units should show the same transparency the Academic Affairs has done.

3. Spring 2016 Calendar

4. President’s response
   The memo and response will go in our next report to the Senate. President does not want to expand the Executive Team meetings on the budget. Argument was made that if the athletics fee goes up, an increase in an academic fee could not. Even though these units are separate, they are connected in that if one increases the other cannot be raised, and it is still a fee on the student. The Speaker and Chair of the budget Committee are invited to certain meetings of the Board. These two people are meant to represent the faculty. It was questioned if the actual budget decision making meetings included these faculty representatives. There are specific rules when the general public can be in an Executive Team meeting. How far down the chain does (Freedom of Information Act) FOIA go? Who can attend, and which meetings are public? Is the Executive Team high enough to be considered an open meeting? The team is advising, and the president is making the decisions. There should be a faculty member to hear the advice. Faculty want to know how the decisions are made. The labor that generates the revenue should be in the meeting.
Budget Committee wants to promote that the faculty be part of the decision making process for budget items. How do we represent the faculty on budget issues? Sam Jones will be invited to a future budget committee meeting.

Special Senate meeting: Various units have been invited to present to the faculty.

Having a seat at the table is desirable. This will give us more of a voice, even if it isn’t a voting membership. Academia is supposed to be a shared governance.

5. Athletics response

Did not have time to review this. The report is in the shared folder.

We still want to have a face-to-face meeting with the president. The meeting would be to follow-up on the issues and topics raised in the special Senate meeting on January 26.

There is a program deletion coming to the committee in the future.

January 28th is the last day for sending in items for the next Senate committee.