

## MINUTES

**University of Tennessee Faculty Senate  
Budget and Planning Committee  
March 27, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – SMC 720 (CBER Conference Room)**

Present: Stephen Blackwell, Don Bruce (Chair), Nathalie Hristov, Jeff Maples, Conrad Plaut, and Harold Roth

Absent: Lee Han, Donald Lighter, Michael McKinney, and Jon Shefner

Minutes from February 27, 2009 were approved.

Campus Budget Update: Bruce reported on a March 11 meeting with system-level budget staff, which was very helpful. He noted that Chris Cimino was working on several tables of data detailing the specific uses of institutional support spending for 2004-2008 by unit of the entire UT system. Bruce presented some recently-gathered statistics on institutional support spending from the NCES IPEDS data, which shows UT ranked #3 among its own self-selected peer group. This will be part of the forthcoming report on institutional support spending.

The committee discussed the possible implications of the recent federal stimulus legislation on Tennessee higher education spending. Maples noted that the new funds will require separate accounting and will be restricted to non-recurring uses. Academic cuts, which will go on as planned, are amounting to 8 percent while administrative cuts are on the order of 10 to 15 percent. These cuts will be replaced with stimulus funding, but again the stimulus funding must be used for non-recurring purposes. Also, while some of the stimulus funding is designated for the current fiscal year, it is not clear whether the money will actually arrive at UT before the end of the fiscal year.

Maples outlined that the stimulus funds could be used for operations, supplies, travel, and new salaries among other things, but could not be used for salary increases, bonuses, or bricks and mortar. The funds must be spent by the end of June 2011. The total will amount to about \$45 million for UTK.

Plaut asked about the relative magnitudes of the stimulus funding versus the so-called “catch-up” funding that the state is required to put forward. No clear information was available.

Even with the stimulus funding, it is clear that UT is going to need a sizeable tuition increase just to cover increases in fixed costs, which is primarily driven by utility costs. These items alone would require a 7 to 7.5 percent tuition increase, just to keep things going at current levels. The campus and system will continue to push for 9 percent but will be pressured to pull back from that given the stimulus funding.

Hristov asked about the possibility of buy-outs to ease the transition to the post-stimulus budget world, and Maples noted that it was being considered.

Academic Common Market: Bruce reported on an e-mail that Jonee Daniels Lindstrom, following up on a discussion from our February 27 meeting. She noted that very few non-residents receive scholarships at UTK. Hristov will continue to explore the possibilities with ACM and report back as needed.

Gender Equity Study: Hristov will follow up with the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment to inquire about either getting the data needed to do the update, or to get someone there to actually do the update. Blackwell noted that he thought Lou Gross had trained someone in that office to use his software to update the numbers for the report..

**Upcoming Meetings:**

April 24

(All meetings will be held at 8:30 a.m. in SMC 720.)