

MINUTES

University of Tennessee Faculty Senate Budget and Planning Committee

April 24, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – SMC 720 (CBER Conference Room)

Present: Don Bruce (Chair), Nathalie Hristov, Jonee Daniels Lindstrom (for Jeff Maples), John Nolt, Jay Pfaffman, Conrad Plaut
Absent: Lee Han, Donald Lighter, Michael McKinney, Harold Roth, and Jon Shefner

Minutes from March 27, 2009 were approved.

Campus Budget Update: Bruce reported the the committee's report and resolution on system-wide spending on institutional support had been approved at the most recent Senate meeting.

Discussion turned to planning regarding the federal stimulus funding, which will arrive on campus with many reporting and oversight requirements that are concerning the staff as reported by Daniels Lindstrom. Nolt reported that discussion was considering several sustainability initiatives totaling about \$11 million, such as metering individual buildings in order to learn more about relative energy efficiency levels on campus.

Plaut expressed concern that many non-academic functions with significant budgets are not subject to the same types of regular review undergone by academic functions. He cited the Community of Science service as one expensive example that is not regularly used by most of his colleagues. He also noted the need for more information in regular budget hearings.

Nolt suggested that we try to get Rupy Sawhney involved with Budget and Planning activities, and Daniels Lindstrom cited his recent work on e-mailing statements to students and streamlining the campus police operations.

Bruce suggested that we begin by discussing this general issue with the Chancellor or relevant staff, and then identify possible areas for further review by starting with suggestions submitted via the Chancellor's (or the UT system) web site. Pfaffman suggested that we would need a structured methodology, perhaps including a survey. The committee agreed to keep looking for examples and thinking about the issues over the summer.

Nolt mentioned that the Athletics Department budget hearing was coming up, possibly in May, and that the committee should send a representative. Recent discussion, prompted by President Simek's remarks that an open discussion would take place regarding the appropriate location for the Athletics Department, focused on the economic implications for the campus in the event of a down revenue year for athletics. Bruce reminded the committee that the campus had already bailed out athletics at least once in recent years.

Gender Equity Study: Hristov reported that data had been received, but did not appear to be complete. She will follow up with the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment and Lou Gross in order to complete the study.