

Faculty Senate Budget and Planning Committee  
Minutes of the meeting 10 November 2005

Present: D. Barlow, L. Gross, S. McMillan, J. Nolt,

Absent: G. Kuney, W. Kuo, G. Reed, N. Schrick, J. Whalen, J. Wansley, C. White

Guests: Mike Sherrell and Jeff Maples

Meeting called to order at 3:35.

- 1) Minutes of the 20 October 2005 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve: Nolt, second: Gross. Minutes approved.
- 2) Mike Sherrell led a discussion of energy saving issues. He presented data on proposed “Green Projects” for UTK for the next five years. He also presented data on how the Environmental Initiatives Facilities Fee is budgeted for the next year. The list of capital maintenance needs for FY05-06 also include multiple energy-related items. Finally, Sherrell shared a Web site (<http://www.pp.utk.edu/Utilities/utilitiesFacServProj.htm>) that summarizes projects and initiatives that facilities services is undertaking for energy savings.

After discussion, Gross proposed that the faculty senate budget and planning committee work with the committee on the campus environment (which is co-chaired by Nolt) to encourage the chancellor’s office to identify alternative ways of prioritizing capital needs that takes energy into account. Priority should be given to investment in energy-efficient systems. This may also involve a communication campaign around the need for energy efficiency and ways that all members of the university community can contribute.

- 3) The committee reviewed the document that was distributed to deans last year to guide their preparation for budget hearings. Barlow agreed to prepare a sample summary of key inputs and outputs in graphic form that could be an additional “cover” page for the budget documents. She will prepare the sample for the College of Communication and Information. She will also continue to work with the Chancellor on attempting to find ways to simplify the instructions. Gross suggested that the new deans be asked for their input on the process. Additionally, all of the deans should be asked to give feedback on ways to improve the process.
- 4) The committee briefly reviewed the living wage documents. However, because of low attendance, this issue was not discussed in detail.
- 5) Under other business Gross noted that there are still concerns about allocation of F&A money from grants to cover costs that cannot be written into grants. He also noted the need for better accounting of fringe benefits for staff who are working on grant money.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:05 p.m. Next meeting 08 December 3:30 p.m. at 812 Volunteer.