

Faculty Senate Budget Committee Minutes

Draft 1

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, 8/18/15, 1:00 pm, **Scholes Hall, Room 101**

Members Present: Douglas Thomas, Andrew Cullen, Fran Wilkinson, Elizabeth Tigges, Trish Steinbrecher, Edl Schamiloglu, Janie Chermak, Scott Hughes, Charlie Paine, Kramer Woodard.

Members Excused:

Guests Present: Stefan Posse, Faculty Senate President, Pamela Pyle, Past Faculty Senate President and Faculty Senate President Elect, and Norma Allen, Associate Director – Office of Planning, Budget and Analysis.

Members Absent: Ajna Hamidovic.

Minutes: Dennis Dunn, Office of the University Secretary.

	Subject	Notes	Follow-Up
1	Call to order (Stefan Posse)	Faculty Senate President Stefan Posse, opened the meeting at 1:00pm and welcomed, and thanked, everyone for attending. He explained that this meeting was called at the request of the Board of Regents to discuss the new budget development process at UNM and to receive input from the committee. Documents relating to the meeting were made available for downloading, but some members had difficulties downloading the documents.	None needed
2	Introductions	Introductions were made by all committee members around the conference table.	None needed
3	Objective of the Regents	<p>A discussion commenced regarding the objectives of the Regents for calling the Budget Committee together for this meeting. Points covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is currently engaged in a fact finding period due to the fact that the Regents want the committee more involved in the budget process; • President Posse is working with Andrew Cullen, of the Budget Office, and his staff, to collect information on the UNM budget. One of the facts President Posse learned is that the accounting structure of the Health Science Center (HSC) and the University Hospital System are quite different from those of the main campus. He had reviewed the Operating Capital Budget Plans Book 2015 and 2016 in a meeting with Norma Allen and her colleagues from the Budget Office; • The regents would like to start the budget process much earlier, so that the budget would not be finalized in March or April, as it currently is, but rather in either September or October. Andrew Cullen clarified this by pointing out that tuition and fees are discussed, and increased, in September or October, but the fiscal year budget is not finalized until March or April. The process also is delayed until UNM finds out what monies they will be getting from the state which can account for 60% of the budget; • President Posse described the creation of a taskforce approach to initiate the involvement of the Faculty Senate in the budget development process by inviting members from related committees to join in the process and then give input at future meetings. This taskforce approach could also be opened up to individual faculty members who have expertise in the budget process. A specific target will be to review selected budget items that are of interest to the Faculty Senate. President Posse also pointed out that the timeline for this committee is quite short and that the documentation is quite extensive. The PDF document he sent out for downloading contained over one hundred pages and the Excel spreadsheets are also quite extensive; • President Posse has attended the past two the regents Finance & Facilities Committee (F&F) and reported to the Regents that the committee will need at least two months to begin providing input into the budget development process. President Posse, as a representative of this committee, has been in contact with the President's Office, the Provost's Office and the Budget Office; • President Posse asked for input from the committee to structure the task force and to distribute efforts between the individual committee members. 	None needed

	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>President Posse then opened up the meeting to discussion of the points he had just made regarding the regents objectives and how to achieve those objectives. Points discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Posse pointed out that if the committee succeeds in this process for the regents that the committee will then be more involved in the budget process in the future; • Comments were made as to the short time frame the regents have imposed on the committee and the overall limited chances for success within this time frame; • Faculty President Elect Pamela Pyle suggest the committee take a look at what the regents are proposing for a budget and how that affects the UNM faculty; • Committee member Fran Wilkinson stated that in her conversations with faculty, concerning the budget, compensation was their first priority. There have been no faculty raises for five of the last seven years; • The committee's main concern is how the regents want the committee to be involved in the budget process, and what does the committee's progress in the process mean to the regents; • Committee member Kramer Woodard stated that he would like to know how democratic this process will be with the regents when the committee presents all of its findings to the regents; • It was suggested that the committee cannot realistically get involved in the total budget process but rather, could suggest some principles to guide the budget process. This would be a list of five to ten priorities for the budget that the committee agrees on; • Overall the committee expressed uncertainty of the objectives of the regents and what the involvement of this committee in the budget process actually means; • President Posse suggested that tough economic times may be coming to the university and that the regents may be restructuring how the budget is assembled by involving the committee and the faculty; • Committee member Kramer Woodard introduced the idea that perhaps the university needs to move away from investing in oil and gas, and consider renewable energy investments, an idea that is gaining momentum on campus, especially among the students. He mentioned that this is a national trend and many universities are making this change. It was also pointed out by a committee member that it is important to remember that 50% of the state of New Mexico's revenue comes from oil and gas. President Posse suggested that this should be considered as a future agenda item; • President Posse suggested that the committee members go back to their respective colleges and departments, report on what the committee has discussed today and request information about budget priorities in their respective colleges and departments. He requested to report back to the committee by the end of the week on the information they received; • Committee member Andrew Cullen suggested that the Budget Department could provide the committee with a spreadsheet that would break the budget down by department or college. This would be a good starting point for the committee and most of them already exist on the Budget Department's website since they are public knowledge. He also reported that when a department goes over budget by \$100,000 they have to report to the Budget Department with a plan to correct this overage. 	<p>None Needed</p>
--	--------------------------	---	--------------------

	How to Proceed	<p>President Posse suggested that the committee members begin collecting information regarding UNM's budget and to also write down thoughts and questions. This information, along with additional information, questions and observations will be entered into an Excel spreadsheet that committee members will have access to. Questions about Andrew's Budget Office spreadsheets can also be entered into this Excel spreadsheet. Dennis Dunn, University Secretary's Office, will be a contact person for emailing questions and information to be entered into the Excel spreadsheet. His email address is ddunn1066@unm.edu.</p> <p>President Posse would also like to have consolidated information about suggestions regarding the budget process and selected budget items from the committee at least three business days before the next regents Finance & Facilities meetings.</p> <p>President Elect Pamela Pyle pointed out that a chair, or co-chairs, need to be elected at the next committee meeting.</p>	Dennis Dunn will create the Excel spreadsheet to collect the data.
	Future Meetings	The committee will meet weekly on Tuesday at 1 pm for the next 4 weeks.	None needed
	Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.	None Needed