

Faculty Senate Budget Taskforce Minutes

Final

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, 9/1/15, 1:00 pm, **Scholes Hall, Room 101**

Members Present: Trish Steinbrecher, Edl Schamiloglu, Janie Chermak, Scott Hughes, Charlie Paine, Charlie Steen.

Members Excused:

Guests Present: Stefan Posse, Faculty Senate President, Pamela Pyle, Faculty Senate President Elect, Lee Brown, HSC Council Chair, Ann K. Brooks, ASM, Department of Accounting, Nora Dominguez, Dir. Mentoring Institute, Deborah Helitzer, HSC Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Education, Donna Sigl, Professor of Psychiatry.

Members Absent: Ajna Hamidovic, Douglas Thomas, Andrew Cullen, Fran Wilkinson, Beth Tigges, Kramer Woodward.

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. Introductions were made around the conference table. Since there were not enough members present from the Faculty Senate Budget Committee quorum could not be met and the August 25, 2015 minutes could not be approved. Also, since quorum was not met Faculty President Elect Pamela Pyle suggested that the election of co-chairs be postponed until the September 8, 2015 meeting. This was agreed upon.	Pamela Pyle will email the members of the FS Budget Committee about the co-chair vote at next Tuesday's meeting.
2	The Meeting & Suggestions	<p>Faculty Senate President Stefan Posse continued the meeting by explaining to the committee that the purpose of the taskforce was to come up with a recommendations to the Regents to support the budget development for FY2017. The taskforce findings needed to be presented at next week's Board of Regents Finance & Facilities meeting on September 8, 2015, in the Roberts Room, which will start at 8 am. However, given the limited time available it will only be possible to provide a progress report to the Regents. He invited the members of the taskforce to join him to assist in his presentation to the regents.</p> <p>For the new guests at today's meeting Stefan Posse reviewed the charge he received from the regents at the July Finance & Facilities meeting, which was to contribute to the budget development for FY2017. He pointed out that Regent Koch's objective is to accelerate the budget process with a target in October/November. He explained that the drop in oil and gas prices in New Mexico might create a budget shortfall. He mentioned the rising pressures on Academia nationwide and the fiscal pressures at the University of Wisconsin as an example of a state making hard budget decisions and stated that this could come to New Mexico, too, among other states. He asked for ideas on how to protect faculty and staff by anticipating potential budget short falls and the redirection of resources. He asked for comments regarding the potential for creating Faculty development and training programs to enable faculty members to respond to changes in resource allocation. He mentioned that the staff council had asked for funds to cross-train staff to enhance flexibility in case of resource reallocations. He also pointed out that the sabbatical was an existing mechanism to provide faculty with career enhancement opportunities. Charlie Steen pointed out that cross training of faculty could affect UNM's accreditation and would have an impact on receiving federal funds.</p> <p>Stefan Posse than led a discussion on expanding UNM's mentoring programs to involve more students and to reach out to the local business community, other universities, and industries nationwide, to help graduates find successful employment after graduation and by their success attract more students to UNM.</p> <p>Lee Brown suggested examining the costs UNM incurs from running the branch campuses around the state, but other committee members cautioned that some legislators in Santa Fe are closely tied to these branch campuses and that this could affect UNM funding.</p>	Stefan Posse will ask Provost Abdallah about a study that was done years ago by Provost Ortega examining all programs at UNM and their finances.

		<p>Stefan Posse reported that the Faculty Senate is increasingly interested looking at many of the new technologies that now exist for teaching and learning, and, that these technologies are anticipated to grow and expand at UNM, attracting additional students. He did not rule out a recommendation to the Regents for a gradual increase in tuition.</p> <p>Another suggestion from a taskforce member referred to examining the whole of UNM to see where administrative inefficiencies could be cut, thereby saving money. A number of years ago former Provost Susan Ortega ordered a survey done of all programs at UNM, which examined the finances and efficiencies. It was suggested to review the results of the study as part of the task force effort. However, realizing that a number of years have passed since the survey was done, it might be outdated. The study might give an overview of how UNM is organized and where the money is going on campus. Stefan Posse said he would ask Provost Abdallah about this study.</p> <p>It was then suggested that the taskforce look at the amount of top-level administrators on the UNM campus and their cost impact.</p> <p>Lee Brown mentioned that at the Health Science Center there are a number of mandates from the New Mexico legislature, such as following the medical workforce, that are not financially supported by the legislature. Some of these mandates require studies that need to be done statewide.</p> <p>Stefan Posse mentioned the regulatory overhead as a possible area of cost saving and gave the example of Emory University, which spends 11% of its operating budget on compliance. It was then suggested to examine the cost and benefits of compliance related activities.</p> <p>Edl Schamiloglu suggested that the presentation to the Regents should stress the importance of growing UNM over the coming years as opposed to addressing UNM's finances on a year to year basis. For example, here has been no growth in the School of Engineering during the past years. UNM should attract students from the surrounding states. This would involve a four to five year plan of strategies that integrates the ups and downs of the budget, yet staying focused on a growth plan for UNM. He suggested articulating a vision of the growth of UNM over the coming years to the Regents.</p> <p>Another suggestion from the taskforce was an examination of our peer institutions to see how they have addressed and dealt with similar budgetary pressures and the successes they have achieved in responding to these pressures.</p> <p>Deborah Helitzer recommended that the taskforce should commit to initiating a study to assess the efficiency and performance of the institution.</p> <p>Nora Dominguez cautioned about the risk of not making a budgetary suggestion for the incoming Fiscal Year. She discussed mentoring in terms of a long-term commitment and mentioned the need for a cultural change. She distinguished between advising and mentoring. She suggested reaching out to Terry Babbit to discuss the projections for student preferences in the coming years.</p> <p>In closing it was suggested that this information be presented to the regents as recommendations, as opposed to hard numbers, and to state that the taskforce report represents works-in-progress.</p>	
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3	To Do	Stefan Posse asked all taskforce members to review and expand on the suggestions and ideas that were put forth today and to circulate them through email to both him and all taskforce members for comment.	
	Next Meeting	Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 1:00pm Scholes Hall Room 101.	
	Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.	