

## **Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report – January 18, 2022**

Good afternoon, colleagues.

We thank Provost Passerini for attending and addressing our questions.

The Senate representatives to the Budget Committee attended meetings as follows:

1/12/22:

The winter term brought in about \$1M in revenue. Housing occupancy was being closely monitored for a drop, but it was better overall for fall 2021 than projected. Expenses had declined in 2020-21 due to a reduction in travel, supplies, and so on. The differences are being studied to understand where costs can continue to be reduced and where they will need to increase. Revenue is expected to be flat. The RCM review meetings with the deans will be scheduled. Tuition rates were set by the Board in December 2021, but this is provisional based on forthcoming events. The 2023 budget will be presented to the Board in March 2022.

2/9/22:

Meetings with the deans have all taken place. All revenue centers were either flat or on track. There were fewer expenses in 2021, but the undergraduate scholarship rate was higher. There will need to be planning for a return to expenses in some budget areas, such as travel. Two revenue centers were positive at the end of the 2022 FY: Stillman and SHMS. That money will go into a quasi-endowment fund. Most revenue centers did better than the prior year. In late spring, as planned, will revisit RCM methodologies; they now have three years of data to draw on. Spring 2022 enrollment showed a small change from December projections. Undergraduate retention was slightly worse than budgeted; graduate numbers were better than forecast in December thanks to a lot of work done by deans, chairs and program directors over the break. There were more new and transfer students than expected for spring 2022. The 2023 budget was built on the assumption that hiring would be done to start to address the budget imbalance between academics and administration. There are also discussions about returning to the 5-year budget planning that was used prior to the pandemic.

The Executive Committee meets monthly with Dr. Nyre and Dr. Passerini. The following is a summary of those meetings:

12/17/21

Rising inflation will mean rising costs, but tuition cannot cover all of that. This year's class was larger than anticipated, but we must also consider the discount rate. The Cabinet's salary reduction (10%) and Dr. Nyre's reduction (20%) have not been restored. In June 2020, \$21M was cut from the budget, which included a 10% staff reduction. There is concern about not being able to fill open positions and losing additional people due to the "great resignation." Dr. Nyre has spoken to the Board of Regents about the need to compensate faculty and staff better than currently.

1/21/22

One housing challenge is that our students can opt out of living on campus after the first semester, which is not the case at other institutions. This affects housing income.

Retention rates:

Freshmen - up 2% over last year; down about 1% from pre-covid numbers

Overall - up 1.6% over last year, but down from the prior year

The new grant consultants, McAllister and Quinn, will work with faculty on grants applications of \$200K+. Several applications are underway.

We advised the President that faculty need funding for things such as travel, archive access, research assistance, and other supports.

Dr. Passerini observed that several initiatives were redistributing budget funds to faculty and addressing the budget imbalance: the Academies, the contract and tenure extension, hiring, and the restoration of the doctoral tuition remission. This amounted to approximately 50% of the 3-year goal to change in the balance of funding between admin and the academy.

2/11/22

Pope Francis' synod on synodality is expected to generate a lot of discussion, and feedback will be sought from colleges and universities. Fr. Collin Kay will be overseeing the process here.

The private school presidents met with congressional representatives to clarify the populations that private institutions serve. This was in response to the proposal to offer free community college tuition. One suggestion is to double Pell grants instead since that will ensure choice while also reducing the expense of college for students. The FEMA payments we are expecting may take longer than expected. The Cabinet's salary reductions will not be restored. The budget parameters for 2023 approved by the Board included investing in faculty and faculty hiring, reducing administrative expenses, and increasing the amount of the budget spent on instruction. The silent phase of the fundraising campaign is going well; the goal is to reduce tuition dependency. Dr. Passerini noted that graduate numbers for spring were better. A lot of work had been done on the SHMS proposal and the plan included funding for up to 5 new faculty lines, based on enrollments, not only for SHMS.

At this meeting, the Executive Committee began a discussion with Drs. Nyre and Passerini about budget matters, including making additional budget information available, the nature of the university's investments, and the amount of the reserve as compared to other institutions. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> to continue this discussion.

Drs. Patel, Roberts, and Balkun met with Amy Newcombe on 2/15/22 to review the agenda items for the 2/18/22 Senate meeting

The members of the Executive Committee met with the consultants for the shared governance workshop on 1/24/22. We discussed the case studies and the structure of the workshop. It is planned for the afternoon of April 1.

Drs. Patel and Balkun met with Michele Nelson, Vice President for Board Affairs and University Strategy, to discuss plans for a Strategic Plan Symposium being planned as we approach the midpoint of the strategic plan. After consulting with the EC and Senate Committee chairs, we recommended that the symposium be held on May 11, Study Day, in order to make sure as many faculty and students as possible can attend.

As most of the body is aware, on Feb. 4 there was a presentation of the results of an audit of the university budget that had been contracted for by the AAUP chapter. In order to ensure that the body is as informed as possible and that the information on which its members may be basing future decisions is as accurate as possible, the Senate Executive Committee has asked Senate representatives with expertise in finance and investing to review the methodology and conclusions of the report. Dr. Bunsis, who conducted the audit for the AAUP chapter, has indicated that he would be available for consultation as needed. The Executive Committee expects to have a report for the body for the March Senate meeting.

The Executive Committee has charged the Faculty Development Committee to work with representatives in the Office of Grants and Research and University Advancement to provide the body with updated information about granting at the university.

Human Resources will be administering a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify and select a qualified Broker /Consultant for the university's benefits program. The BAC members, including several Senate representatives, will participate in this process.

While this meeting is being held virtually, we believe it is important to resume in-person Senate meetings, as long as it is safe to do so. In preparation for a shift to in-person meetings in March, we will be distributing a Qualtrics survey in the near future to get a sense of the body as to whether meetings should be fully in person, hyflex, whether senators should be expected to attend in person unless they have an accommodation, and so on.

Finally, under Communications on the agenda, the Executive Committee has a statement regarding the recent announcement about Dr. and Mrs. Nyre's generous donation to the university.

Thank you, as always, for all your work on behalf of the Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Balkun, Chairperson