

Budget Council Minutes
Tuesday, November 22, 2011
3:30 - 4:30 pm

Terry Leist
Jeff Jacobsen
Scott Myers
Allen Yarnell
Don Mathre
Jim Luebbers

Anne Camper
Sheron McIlhattan
David Singel
Blake Bjornson
Megan Bergstedt
Pat Donahoe, guest

Shelley McKamey
Doralyn Rossmann
Jeanne Wilkinson
Joseph Steffens
Kathy Attebury

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Leist.

II. Approval of Minutes of September 27, 2011

Anne Camper moved to approve the minutes. Shelley McKamey seconded this motion. The minutes were approved

III. University Wide Information/ Announcements

The November Board of Regents meeting was held in Bozeman on November 17-18. Terry updated the Council on agenda items from this meeting:

- The Regents approved moving forward to design a new academic classroom and office building for the College of Business.
- Renovation of the Wilson Hall Writing Center was approved.
- Design and construction of the Museum of Rockies Planetarium upgrades was approved.
- Paul Tuss was introduced as the new member on the Board of Regents from Havre.
- James Limbaugh was introduced as the new Chancellor at MSU Northern.

It was announced that Dennis Defa will be starting as the new Chief Human Resources Officer at MSU on January 3, 2012.

IV. Information Items:

- Update on Budget Council Task Force

Doralyn Rossmann gave an update on the work that the Budget Council Task Force has done recently on researching and developing a funding model for the Budget Council to consider. It has been determined that there aren't a lot of models to compare with. Many of the peer institutions do not have funds to invest right now and, in fact, are looking for ways to cut funding. It is also difficult because all

institutions are doing each piece differently and have different variables making it hard to compare.

Terry Leist said we have constraints on our time to develop a new process and tools because the investment proposals will be due soon. His charge to the group is to come up with something that is an improvement from what we currently have. Our time constraints limit our ability to redo the entire process right now. We might focus on how to reallocate excess dollars right now since we have unallocated tuition dollars. Other processes could be developed over time.

Scott Myers, the department head representative, asked what the excess revenues have been used for in the past. Terry Leist explained that between the revenues and the actual expenditures, the personal services and benefits costs have taken up a significant part of that pot. The increased enrollment has also come with an increased cost of doing business to meet the needs of the additional FTE. There is a modest amount of unallocated net revenues which will be addressed when we implement our updated campus funding model.

- Update on Investment Proposal Process

On October 20th, the call for investment proposals went out with a due date of January 19 to the Budget Office.

Presentations of Investment Proposals – if we get a large number of requests, we may not be able to have all presentations on the same day. We will determine this once we know the number of proposals received. The time allowed for each presentation will need to be limited so that we can accommodate all requests in a timely manner.

The objective of this process is to prepare a list of priorities when excess funds are available, so President Cruzado will have a list ready to consider for funding. Blake Bjornson felt that this needs to be communicated to campus so they understand proposals are going to be put on a prioritized list and that funding may not be guaranteed.

Terry – Budget Council meeting time in January conflicts with President’s Listening session so we will need to reschedule for either January 25 or 26.

V. New Items:

- Staffing Plan for Counseling and Psychological Services

Terry Leist explained that earlier the Council had agreed that requests submitted for consideration wouldn’t be voted on at the first meeting. If an item requires a vote, it will be presented at a meeting as an information item and then would be voted on at either the next meeting or via email after a couple of weeks, if time requires.

Allen Yarnell was told that the Counseling Center is in need of base funding to be able to hire permanent Counselors. Three successful suicides in the last 1 ½ years has brought to our attention the dire need to address this and other increased needs for counseling services. Terry Leist felt that because this deals with student safety, he wasn't comfortable making them wait to go through the formal investment proposal process and suggested they bring their request to the Budget Council.

Pat Donahoe – Counseling Center – made a presentation to the Council and explained that this increased need is being seen nationwide. Counseling services have been expanding in the last few years, rather than being cut, and the need has increased exponentially. The waiting list in October 2010 was 50-60 people at any given time. The increased need continues as there were 51 people on the waiting list this week.

Over the last 5 years, up to 33% of the clients have some suicidal component to their needs. It is an important goal to prevent suicidal and homicidal events on our campus. Last year we reached the breaking point and did not have the resources to meet the needs of the students. Temporary funds have been utilized to make some hires but we need to have funding to be able to hire counselors on a permanent basis. To be able to make permanent hires, they need to be able to advertise in professional journals beginning in January.

The Counseling Center will be participating in an accreditation site visit in January and it will be noticed by the team that the increased student growth is outpacing the services we have available.

Jeff Jacobsen suggested that we handle the need now by asking permission from President Cruzado for a bridge solution for temporary funding. They would then submit an investment proposal for base funding for long-term needs. The majority of the Council agreed that this is a life and death solution that needs to be handled differently than other requests.

Shelley McKamey suggested that the Budget Council write a letter of support to the President with our recommended solution to provide bridge funding to address this critical life safety issue. Pat Donahoe felt that this show of support would be sufficient to prove to the accrediting agency that the institution recognizes the need and is committed to helping find long-term funding options for the Counseling Center.

Plan of Action: Terry Leist will draft a letter of support for President Cruzado to provide bridge funding to meet these needs. He will send it to the Budget Council for their final input prior to sending to the President.

Next Meeting: January 24, 2012

(possible conflict with President's Listening Session – if needed, we would like to reschedule for either Jan. 25 or 26 at the same time)