

Budget Council Minutes
Tuesday, August 27, 2013
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
President's Conference Room

Terry Leist
Adam Edelman
Robert Marley
Martha Potvin
Joel Schumacher

Tricia Cook
Chris Fastnow
Don Mathre
Doralyn Rossmann
Linda Young

Nancy Cornwell
Steve Luft
Erica McKay

Guests in attendance:
Kathy Attebury, Megan Bergstedt

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Leist.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June meeting were approved.

III. Information/Announcements/Updates

Opening Remarks-President Cruzado

President Cruzado thanked the Council for all the time they have committed to the work of the Budget Council during the past year.

President Cruzado also asked that Budget Council members come to serve with the intention of leaving their hat at the door and making the decisions so MSU is at the center of the conversation. She posed these questions: Where do we want to be five years from now? How do we get there?

The University is doing well and we continue to grow with an enrollment now over 15,000 students. The faculty and staff are doing a fantastic job and the President is pleased with how well the start of the semester flowed. Due to growth in enrollment, we have resources to utilize. At this point, we need to plan for long-term.

The research operations took a bit of a dip this year but this was not totally unexpected. Changes in the congressional arena have affected the research dollars available.

The Town Hall will now be an Open House. Members were encouraged to participate in the event. The program will run for the entire day, September 11, starting at 9 am. The VPs will present for 20 minutes which will allow for plenty of time for Q&A. Attendees can come and go throughout the day, depending on which sessions they are interested in. All presenters will be available all day to answer questions, regardless of presentation time.

Performance Funding

The Governor supports the concept of performance funding and the efforts are lead by Tyler Trevor from the Commissioner's Office. This ties the funding of the institutions to their performance (completion of degrees, retention rates, etc.). Results will be measured this year for FY15 funding. A long-term task force will be addressing where we go with this long-term. The Commissioner's Office website (www.mus.edu) has the documents with details of the program.

IV. Current Business

FY14 Goals for Budget Council

The strategic investment proposal process received 72 proposals for funding the first year and 104 proposals during last year. There are still over 100 proposals waiting for funding. New proposals won't be solicited this year and any available funds will be considered for the remaining proposals.

The assessment plans for previously funded proposals was discussed. Kathy Attebury showed a sample assessment request for discussion. She asked for input with an October 31 deadline. The discussion included the following:

- Who will review the assessment plans? The whole Council or a task force? Will it be split into groups?
- If there are programs that aren't performing or assessment plans indicate problems, should it be discussed by the Council?
- We can look at data (i.e., visits to Writing Center) but how do we assess quality of skills?

It was suggested to implement the first round of assessments. If the data isn't giving the answers, we can revisit in the spring. A&F will look into the process to see if it can be done electronically.

There was considerable discussion on defining the purpose of the Board. Doralyn Rossmann worked with a working group last year to create a mission for the Council. She offered to send out the draft document with the comments from the Working Group.

Linking the Mission of the Budget Council to the Strategic Plan - Linda Young asked if there was benefit to waiting to see if anything is identified after the 9/11 Open House event? Terry Leist suggested that this be complemented with input from Open House. Kathy Attebury reported that the Budget Office has started to project the cost of the implementation of the strategic plan and has discovered that it is extremely expensive.

Training Needs for Budget Council

Terry Leist asked if it would be beneficial to have a separate training session for the Council to allow more time at meetings for business, as training will probably take a lot of time. Martha suggested it be opened to "Budget 101" and include deans, directors, etc. Terry asked the Council to give this some thought and let him know if there are other issues to add.

Linda Young asked whether we could answer questions about current finances. Joel Schumacher pointed out that educating users on the budget/expenditures seems to be a very big difference from what we have done in the past. Having a mission statement would be useful in directing the work of the Council.

Kathy Attebury offered to come up with a simple list of FAQ's and send it to the Council for input. Nancy Cornwell pointed out that questions asked by faculty and students are typically different than questions that fiscal managers would ask. The answers would be different, depending on the areas (research, state, academic, etc.) that the requestors are asking about.

The meeting was adjourned.