I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Leist.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November meeting were approved.

III.

Anne Camper gave an update on the Research Rapid Action Task Force. A lot of time and effort went into solving the budget shortfall. Ultimately there were some budget reductions. One of the good outcomes from this process is that more people on campus understand the issue and how complex the budgets in the Research area are. The colleges that were affected the most (Letters & Science, Agriculture and Engineering) served on the committee and were involved in the decisions.

It was suggested that VP Research present their budget to the Council. There was also interest expressed in having budget presentations from Extension, Academics, etc. Those will be scheduled for future meetings, as the agenda allows.

Terry Leist provided clarification on the note that the administrative fee will be raised. The administrative fee hasn’t been raised since July 2000. The additional revenue would be used to help raise the administrative processes to a level more appropriate for 2014. Terry clarified that this change won’t be final until University Council approves it.

All funds Budgeting – Kathy Attebury researched this budget model with 9 different institutions (6 responded). The consistent theme was to understand why you want to change the way you budget – that is important to consider before making changes. It is not a simple process, it needs to be well thought out and knowing why you should do this are all important factors.
Nancy Cornwell has experience with institutions that have used these budget models. She suggested being aware of conflicting strategies in the colleges/departments. She has experience with a model that provided base funding and then incentives that were awarded for performance.

There was discussion about the sources of dissatisfaction with the current budget model. Other questions were: How do we phase out of an old model into a new one? How do we align with the strategic plan? What do we ultimately want out of a budget model? The purpose is to better align resources with our current strategic plan and to look at other funding sources. Terry would like to bring information to the Budget Council and have the Budget Council be involved in the decision on which model to recommend to the President.

Jeff Butler, Director of Facilities Services, presented the budget for Facilities Service – it was a 30,000 foot view of the Facilities operation, their funding sources and the areas of expenditures for the OFS operations. His powerpoint presentation will be distributed to the Budget Council.

Assessment Plans for the Strategic Investment Process – Kathy Attebury asked the Council to give her feedback. Were the assessment plans adequate? Did they give the Budget Council enough information? By the end of June/July next year, if a department’s assessment plan shows progress and warrants continued funding, should it be funded with base dollars? Or should the programs be discontinued? The Council members agreed that we want to give them adequate time to discontinue a program if they aren’t going to receive additional funds. Some of the data needed for assessing needs might not be available until June or July. Budget Office offered to have it ready for the August Budget Council meeting so that funding decisions could be made.

The meeting was adjourned.