

Budget Council Minutes
January 26,2021
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
WebEx

Members:

Terry Leist	Robert Mokwa	Chris Kearns	Michael Trotter
Kim Obbink	Mark Ranalli	Bradford Watson	Jason Carter
Chris Fastnow	Craig Woolard	Tia Brown	Matt Bissett
Conner McCollum			

Guests:

Megan Lasso – Budget Office, Mackenzie Seeley – Budget Office, Brittany Thompson – Budget Office, Colin Shaw – Undergraduate Scholars Program Director (Earth Sciences)

Absentees: Terry Leist, Jason Carter

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Bob Mokwa

II. Approval of Minutes

The November 24,2020 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

III. University Information/Announcements

- a. Governor Gianforte released new budget
1. Slightly lower than previous budget for higher education
 2. Universities get a 2-month “insurance holiday”
 3. American Indian Hall operations and maintenance included in new budget
 4. Pay plan is included in a separate House bill for all state employees
 5. Legislative session runs through April
 6. Lump sum from state goes to Board of Regents to divvy up among campuses

IV. Action Items

a. Vote – Academic Analytics Funding Request for \$110,000

1. Discussion
 - Current contract goes through the end of the 2021/2022 academic year and requires one more payment in November (FY22)
 - Budget Council’s role is to review on-going investments and strategic investment proposals to assess value and impact
 - Base funding vs one-time funding – base funding is recurring and doesn’t require continued approval from Budget Council, though is can be terminated in the future
 - Motion to recommend one-time funding through the duration of the existing contract, with the understanding that this tool will be brought back to BC prior to renewing or extending the contract
2. Approved - 7 in favor, 1 opposition, 1 abstention

b. Vote – Athletics Student Support Funding Request for \$160,000

1. Discussion - None
2. Approved - 8 in favor, 1 abstention

V. Assessment Presentations

a. First Year Research Experience Funding Request, *Colin Shaw*

1. History

- Program initiated in Fall 2014 (FY15) to address retention problems and the issue that most students participating in undergraduate research fit the same profile (high-achieving Honors students, typically white, not first-generation college students)
- Literature review showed best way to broaden research participation is to introduce students at an early age to demystify research
- Program involves a Fall seminar and Spring semester research internship and assistance with matching freshman and research labs interested in engaging freshman
- Undergrad research positively impacts academic achievement and has been shown to have particularly strong impact on underrepresented students and first-generation college students
- Faculty research mentor is key component
- Goal is to reach students who might not consider research as a path

2. Current Status

- \$165,000 OTO funding for four fiscal years and \$28,000 base funding
- Small program – limited to 30 students per academic year
- 191 students reached to date
- Student stipends are not lump sums – they are paid based on hours worked, with a \$1,200 maximum limit per student

3. Assessment Measures

- Student and faculty feedback – validated survey instrument – mostly very positive
- Study Skills Inventory (developed by Whistle and colleagues) to assess aptitudes and approaches to learning and research engagement before and after the program
- Success in broadened diversity – 7% Native American / Alaska Native, percent of Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander participation is same as student population
- 3-4% Hispanic participation still behind compared to percentage of student population
- Colin and team published four conference and peer-reviewed papers based on their findings from this program (the program itself has been a research project)
- Collin working with Greg Young to track trajectory of past participants – slow process, takes 3-4 years after they leave the program
- Preliminary tracking results show small but significant gains

4. Lessons Learned

- Recruiting non-high-achieving Honors students is difficult, no resources for outreach
- Collaboration with FYRE program and going through Empower program (College of Engineering) has been fruitful for recruiting
- Put more emphasis on scaling up rather than maintaining the current 30 students per year level (this would require additional funding for instructors, peer mentors, etc.)

5. Discussion

- Is it necessary to pay students for research opportunity?
- It's important to pay students when goal is to reach at-risk population who need income, so they don't have to choose between research opportunity and working

b. Outreach & Engagement Seed Grants, *Kim Obbink*

1. History

- Purpose – promote engagement across campus
- Learned from conferences and benchmarking against other institutions
- 2 types of engagement: student and community
- MSU wants to maintain Carnegie classification of community engagement – mutually beneficial exchange with external partners

- Received approximately \$65,000 in OTO over 3 years and \$20k in base, resulting in awards of \$35k per year from FY18-FY20.
2. Current Status
 - Each seed grant is a one-time \$5k amount
 - Application process – submit proposal which identifies external partner, need and solution, how students will be meaningfully involved, and measurable goals
 - Recipients give a final report and presentation to Outreach & Engagement Council
 - Broad base of departments across campus have received seed grants
 - External partners include Gallatin County Dept. of Transportation, Health & Human Services, museums, Gallatin County Food Bank, and tribal colleges and community colleges
 3. Assessment Measures
 - 26 completed to date; 70 % are still on-going partnerships that secured external funding after the seed grant ran out
 - 32+ refereed publications and conference presentations
 - \$800k externally funded grants related to the seed grant projects, with \$3.3M pending proposals submitted to National Science Foundation and Dept. of Labor
 - 2000 external participants
 - Students passed a resolution to support the grants and require students to be involved in the project
 4. Lessons Learned
 - Incredible depth and breadth of engagement across campus
 - \$5k is enough to entice people to spend time to submit proposals and can accomplish a lot
 - 9 months is a short period of time to complete project
 5. Discussion
 - None of seed grant goes to pay faculty
 - All 32 projects are listed on Outreach & Engagement website
 - What should the budget be? Should more be spent? How much more?
 - At other higher ed institutions, the Provost's Office and Research Office kick in money
 - Perhaps the Alumni Foundation can help to raise money for this
 - External partner matching funds haven't been tracked well, but the matches have been significant

VI. Public Comment/Member Feedback

- a. Welcome to new member, Grad Student representative Conner McCollum

Meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 23, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. via WebEx