

## **Faculty Senate Budget Committee Report for March 3 2008**

### **The committee met on February 20.**

At the February 20 meeting, Provost Piercey and VP for financial affairs Debbie Newson were in attendance. The main emphasis of the meeting was about the actions the administration would take in view of the budget cuts (3% of the current budget (\$2.4 million) and up 12% of the next biennium (\$9.5million). Dr. Piercey reiterated the intention of President Whitlock to front these cuts without layoff but through attrition and hiring freeze. Further, there will be no cuts across the board, but more of a strategic nature.

The amount of the cut is not certain, and, according to Dr. Piercey and VP Newsom, the University is well poised to face all cuts, even the worst case scenario of 12% reduction in state's appropriation. These cuts, no matter at what level, should be considered as permanent. The state budget, however, will not be available until the month of April. In the event of cuts less than 12%, there could be funds available for various initiatives.

While waiting for the amount of the cut to be known, Dr. Piercey has therefore asked the faculty at large, through their representative on the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Budget Committee, to help set priorities in case the cuts are less than the worst case scenario.

The faculty may want to consider the areas listed to provide input and feedback to the Faculty Senate Budget Committee and to the Provost. These areas are not the only ones to consider, and others could be added.

Please email a member of the Budget committee with your suggestions of which of the following items are the most important. Please rank them in order of importance. You may list only one or two or rank order them all with any additions you deem important.

- Keeping existing faculty/staff lines
- New faculty/staff lines
- New/expanded student services
- Student recruitment
- Equity adjustments for faculty/staff
- Equipment
- Operating money
- Across the board compensation increase
- Merit compensation increase
- Technology refresh/enhancements
- Professional development for faculty/staff
- Capital expansion debt service
- Etc.

Report presented to the Faculty Senate meeting of March 3, 2008

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