

## Faculty Senate Budget Committee Report: Jan. 12, 2009

The Budget Committee met on December 12, 2008 with President Whitlock to discuss matters of the budget and proposals of the Governor to deal with the state's budget shortfall.

President Whitlock explained that the Governor was proposing to raise the cigarette tax by \$0.70 plus a proportional hike on other tobacco products. The Governor is finding funds to use from the executive branch, small pools of money in recurring or non-recurring funds, borrowing from next year's contingency fund (to be replaced by the tobacco tax), a 2% cut from Post Secondary Education and a 4% cut from other state government allocations.

President Whitlock plans to continue to prepare for a 4% cut because there is no way of knowing if the Governor's proposals will get through the legislature. We may not know until the end of January or into February about how the legislature will deal with the tax proposals. There could be a special session this month, but it doesn't look like it is going to happen. President Whitlock said he was, "Planning for the worst and hoping for the best." Another cut for 2009-10 is still a possibility depending on the economy.

Anthem BC/BS has been set for 2009 and the university Benefits Committee will begin meeting in January or February to begin deliberations for 2010. Remember that our health plan is now on a calendar year and not the school year.

The bid for Business and Technology Phase II came in 18% under what was expected, but it had been cut to the bare bones and will now be able to add back in most of the draconian cuts. The funds for this project can only be used for capital projects.

There are no plans to cut employees, faculty or staff, but we will continue the hiring freeze and look at each position which comes open individually to see where the need is to replace positions. There may be some savings from open position through attrition.

CPE continues to look at Graduation rates, retention and regional stewardship. The 2020 goals will most surely be slowed by the cuts in the budgets of higher education.

Respectfully submitted by Keith Johnson, Chair

Faculty Senate Budget Committee

Marco Ciocca

Keith Johnson

Beth Ann Pruitt

Ann Shordike

Linda Wray