

To: Faculty Senate  
From: Faculty Senate Budget Committee  
Date: 1 December 2008

The Budget Committee requests that the Faculty Senate adopt the following motion at its meeting on 1 December 2008.

**MOTION:**

The faculty Senate of ECU supports the reorganization of the University Budget Advisory Council to the Financial Planning Council (FPC) as set forth in the University Planning, Phase 1 document with the following recommendations:

- 1 Add a representative from the five deans to the FPC.
  - a. This should rotate between the deans of the five colleges yearly.
  - b. This representative should not be the same dean as the dean's representative on the SPC.
  
- 2 Add a representative from the Chairs Association.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

- The reorganization reflects the goal presented to the faculty-at-large by President Doug Whitlock in his Convocation address on August 19, 2008, stated as follows:
  - "My goal is to create a budgeting process that is better data informed and more transparently combines the strategic planning and budgeting processes into one process. To that end, I plan to work toward combining the Strategic Planning Committee and the Budget Advisory Council into one body. I have become convinced that this is necessary in order to facilitate the linkage between strategic planning and strategic budgeting that the times require and we want. How we achieve this and the exact composition of the new body is completely undetermined. The 'how' of the matter is a decision we will make together." (Whitlock, August 19, 2008).
  
- The reorganization addresses inefficiencies presented by the large, unwieldy structure of the University Budget Advisory Council.
  
- The inclusion of representatives from the Deans and from the Chairs association would strengthen the participation of two key constituencies of the financial planning process.
  
- As indicated in President Whitlock's "Commonwealth Budget Update," distributed to university staff and faculty-at-large by electronic communication on November 26, 2008, budget issues are critical and time is of the essence in mobilizing the university to address the challenges presented by current economic conditions. The proposed reorganization provides a mechanism for data-informed budgeting that reflects the university's mission and strategic planning.