

## Faculty Senate Budget Committee Report: Dec. 1, 2008

The Budget Committee has met twice since the last Faculty Senate meeting, Friday Nov. 14, and Tuesday Nov. 25, 2008.

**Friday, November 14:** The Provost was invited along with The VP for Financial Affairs to speak to us about how the budget looked for the remainder of this fiscal year, the results of the Budget Committee's survey of last year and how it was implemented and what plans were underway for next year's budget. The information was that ECU has absorbed all of the cuts from the state so far. ECU is "prepared" for cuts expected this year. CPE is expected to hold the line on tuition increases. The pressure for the expected numbers for the state's universities for the year 2020 seems to be lessening; this is not to say that the increases are not still on the books. We were told there was good reason to proceed in a fiscally conservative manner.

We discussed that the plan for future budgets should be built from the bottom up instead of from the top down and a new committee combining the University Budget Council and the Strategic Planning Council was in the planning stages. This would link the budget to the strategic plan.

The CPE was again performing a productivity review of programs.

The committee suggested that communication needed to be improved between the administration, faculty, and staff. Academic Affairs was looking at priority hires and an inventory of unmet needs.

Everybody was waiting to see what the state was going to do about the proposed shortfall in the state's budget.

**Tuesday, November 25:** After receiving the University Planning, Phase 1 document at the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting on Monday, November 17, the Budget Committee called a meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November to go over this document and see if we should make some recommendations concerning the structure of the two councils as put forth in this document. The Provost was again invited to attend, but due to illness he could not make it but Dr. Janna Vice, Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs attended in his place along with Debbie Newsom, VP for Financial Affairs. After much discussion the committee felt that there was a lack of academic representation on the newly formed Financial Planning

Council (FPC). We proposed that a representative of the five deans and a representative of the Chairs association should also be a part of that council. We also agreed with conclusions formed at the Senate Executive Committee meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> of November that the Vice-chair of the Senate should be added to the new structure of the new Strategic Planning Council (SPC) and that the chair of the SPC should be a member of the Faculty-at-large. We also proposed that the dean on each of these two councils should not be the same dean and that they should rotate on a yearly basis. These recommendations will be brought to the floor of the Senate at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

The Budget Committee is required to meet with the President to receive a report once each semester to get an overview of the budget. We have put this off, waiting for the report on the state's budget shortfall to become public. We will be contacting President Whitlock in within the week to see if it would be possible to meet with him as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted by Keith Johnson, Chair Senate Budget Committee on behalf of:

Marco Ciocca  
Keith Johnson  
Beth Ann Pruitt  
Ann Shordike  
Linda Wray