

University Budget Committee  
Tuesday, April 18, 2017 3:30 – 4:45 MCM 305  
Meeting Notes

1. Welcome (Gagnon and Hoar)
  - a. New member: Darlene Hert
  - b. Sitting in for Diane Duin: Suzette Nynas
2. Role of members of University Budget Committee (Hoar)

University Budget Committee serves as an advisory committee to the Chancellor. The intent is to get broad input from many campus constituencies. As a UBC member you have been elected or appointed by the group you represent or are a member based on your role. UBC meets monthly; in the interim weeks the Executive Budget Committee (EBC) meets. EBC is a smaller group dealing with day to day budgetary actions. Anything significant is brought to the UBC for feedback on plans or input.

Discussion:

- Will UBC continue to meet in the summer?  
Yes, a core group is willing to meet as needed.
- UBC members should actively reach out to their constituents and get a two way conversation going. Due to the email requesting input for budget, UBC members may have their constituents coming to ask questions. Such as:
  - How can I get information to/from the committee?
  - What is the role of committee?
  - What is your role on the committee?
- Staff Senate has discussed the concern of losing more staff in budget cuts. Is it possible to share the 3, 5, and 7% budget cut scenarios?  
Provost Hoar explained the EBC does not want to put out information that we don't intend to act on; the information could easily be misinterpreted. The intent is to maintain transparency; however, we do not want to create confusion or the possibility of causing a misunderstanding.
- Professor Gilbertz explained our budget is much more up in the air than ever before due to changes in allocation of state funds through OCHE. We will find out our budget late; it is out of the hands of this campus, which is causing frustration for everyone.
- As this is an advisory group, clarity regarding the nature of the advice would be good to receive at each meeting.
  - We need an enrollment target in order to set the budget. It looks like there are some indications for optimism in terms of our enrollment for the next fiscal year. Will a tuition increase have a negative impact? Provost Hoar would like to have input on what we should consider when we set the budget.
  - Individuals who are reluctant to put ideas down in writing may come forward to committee members. As a member of this committee, you would bring their ideas forward for them.
  - Significant issues, bring it up here to discuss.

- We will have a standing item to invite agenda items, anything we should revisit/spend more time on - please bring it up.

### 3. Enrollment projection discussion (Barber)

Dr. Barber presented the current summer and fall enrollment information and reviewed the budget targets, which are currently set at last fiscal year's actual enrollments. Freshmen retention is roughly equivalent to the prior year. There is a need to identify which retention strategies are effective and invest in those.

### 4. Legislative/OCHE update (Larsen/Hoar/Iverson/Collins)

#### a. State appropriation allocations to campuses and tuition rates

- i. FY 2018 state allocations will be somewhat finalized on May 4th by OCHE. The legislature has to be finished and bills signed. OCHE recommendations to BOR will be made then for state allocation and tuition by campus.
- ii. Last week Tyler Trevor sent a spreadsheet, which included the tuition increase for next two years for each campus. We think this will be what we are going to see from OCHE as a recommended tuition and mandatory fee increase
  - In our category with Northern and Western, our tuition is already high compared to the others; therefore, there is pressure to not raise our tuition.
  - In this group, we have a very low state allocation compared to the others.
  - The thought is MSUB's state allocation will go up rather than our tuition. This is good for our students as we will not raise tuition out of our students' ability to pay.
  - The budget concern is the gap between our budget and projected revenues (tuition/state allocation).
  - In addition, mandatory fees (library, academic support center, health services, athletics, recreation, student government, student union, etc) have been frozen for the next two years. We have some entities on campus who were depending on fee increases in order to maintain their services or to implement BOR recommendations. Vice Chancellor Oravec explained this is a major concern. The respective student senates have voted to support the student driven fees and now they are not going forward. In response, the Montana Association of Students has drafted, and is putting forward, a resolution to BOR.
  - Co-chair Gagnon asked is there is a differentiation between University Campus and City College. There is, but it is unclear.
- iii. Performance based funding
  - Looking at earning 65% of our total possible allocation; if amount is the same as last two years that translates to not receiving \$760K.

b. Legislative decisions

The future of the infrastructure bill is still uncertain. There is the desire to get this done, it is not dead yet.

Early retirement information that came out last week was designed for UM only although that is not stated in the bill.

Pay plan is in process. February 15th implementation date - 1% each of the next two years subject to bargaining agreements

5. Suggestion Box – Timing, Collection, and Prioritization

The request for input was via admin general. UBC members should follow up with their constituents and provide a bit of context for the request. It is a very simple format and a good way to get ideas to the UBC.

EBC will review the responses and bring them to UBC. There will be some analysis and filtering of responses to only bring what aligns with the budget build.

When the suggestion box is closed, the UBC co-chairs will send out a message thanking everyone for their input and stating not all suggestions can/will be acted on. UBC will make a decision regarding closing suggestion box at next meeting.

6. Election of co-chairs for next academic year

Co-chairs are elected in spring and assume roles in the fall.

Last year there was discussion regarding the roles from which the co-chairs should come: one faculty member and one person who sat on EBC. The term is annual for now; UBC may consider changing the term in the future.

Floor opened for nominations. Professor Saldivar nominated Dr. Scott Butterfield, Dr. Butterfield accepted the nomination. Trudy Collins nominated Provost Hoar.

Nominations were closed.

Vote not necessary.

7. Future meeting date

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 to 4:30 pm