

**Faculty Senate Budget Committee**  
**Friday, March 18, 2022**  
**Minutes – Approved April 15**

**Present at Meeting:**

Senators: Laurie Kimbrel (COE), 2022, Leadership, Research, and School Improvement, Chair; David Nickell, Chair-elect; (RCOB), Marketing, 2024; Marjorie Snipes (CACSI), Anthropology, 2023; Shelly Elman (CACSI), Theatre, 2023; Blynn Olivieri (LIBR), 2024

Representatives: UC Rep.: Gavin Lee (UC), 2023; CACSI Rep.: Rob Kilpatrick (CACSI), 2023; RCOB Rep.: COE Rep.: Mary Alice Varga (COE), 2023; Susan Welch (TSN), 2022.

Administrators: Kristen Smith, Director of Budget Services; Lucretia Gibbs, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs appointee; Holly Sailors, Vice President for University Advancement appointee; Mark Reeves, Interim VP for Business and Financial Services.

**Agenda:**

1. Approval of minutes from January 21, 2022 meeting  
Motion made by Marjorie Snipes, Seconded by Blynn Olivieri. All in favor.
2. VP for Business and Financial Services hiring process update from Laurie Kimbrel  
Twenty-one candidates applied and 13 were deemed as appropriately qualified by Myers-McRae. The committee screened all 13 pre-qualified applicants. Seven candidates were selected and participated in virtual interviews. Four finalists have been invited to campus for interviews starting March 28th. Mark Reeves reported that his contract was extended through April 30, 2022.
3. FY 23 Budget narrative and worksheet discussion and Q & A with Mark Reeves  
The following issues were discussed:
  - Line 3 of the budget shows one total amount for nursing and computer science faculty positions. The narrative says that nursing salaries are based on national averages, but there is no information regarding how computer science salaries were determined. The committee asked for a breakdown of salaries included in line 3. Mark Reeves stated that he would pursue this data.
  - It was clarified that the original parking fee increase proposal will be implemented regardless of the faculty senate vote not to move forward with it.
  - Mark Reeves shared that the \$5,000 cost of living increase proposed by the Governor and approved by the legislature will begin in FY22 and continue in FY23. It is a permanent adjustment, not a one-time bonus. It seems likely that the increase will start in April, and a lump-sum retroactive payment will be made for July-March (9 months). This is a cost of living increase and does not impact raises for promotion.
  - A question was raised about how the committee can best advocate for the interests and needs of faculty. Mr. Reeves responded that changes at the university are based on shifts in the higher education market. The university needs to meet the demands of students who are our customer base.
4. Updated Credit Hour Production report provided by Dr. Jon Preston  
The committee discussed the most recent version of the Credit Hour Production Report provided by Dr. Preston and noted the following concerns:

- XIDS and honors courses are not included in department numbers, which discourages teaching in interdisciplinary programs for fear that it will hurt the credit hour production total in faculty members' departments. This is already playing out with what faculty members are willing to teach. Committee asked why the credit hours do not follow the faculty member back to their department as reported in the past.
- The numbers do not include summer courses, even though this semester is defined as a portion of the academic year.
- The provost has stated that other criteria will be used to make decisions. The committee would like to know - what are those criteria, and how will they be applied?
- A concern was raised that faculty could generate more credit hours if there were more leeway in course delivery modality. New sections of online courses have not been added because seats are open in face-to-face sections. Are faculty being unfairly penalized because of the desire to fill housing units? Is there any flexibility or willingness to negotiate regarding adding sections?

5. Announcements

David Nickell shared that he will contact the new VP of Business and Financial Services when that person has started to set up a meeting.. Committee members should expect to have meetings over the summer to address budget issues.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm.

Future Meetings: Spring semester meetings:  
April 15, 2022