

Faculty Senate Budget & Planning Committee January 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Approved Feb. 29, 2024

Members in Attendance: Dana Hollie, Judith Sylvester, Robert Cook, Mike , James Cantfield, Wei-Ling Song

Guests: Daniel Tirone, Inessa Bazayev

Absent: Tommy Smith, Favio Piero, Joan King

- We need to figure out the membership situation, because what happened last year was we had 2 people who were listed as being 2023. One was kicked off at the end of the spring semester. The Joan King is still listed as being on the committee.
 - o This creates a quorum issue when we have members listed but they aren't actually serving on the committee
- Discussion about our committees charge as a committee, as well as the expectation of committee work for this committee through August rather than the end of the 9-month contract year. Expectations should be clarified.
- Judith's discussion with the Provost at another meeting about the budget
 - o No idea of budget related to the Engineering Building damage.
 - o Provost said he would meet on his way out but not clear what the path will be to have this committee included in any "real" advisory role.
- What resolutions do we want to make through this committee?
- We don't have a real role with the budget planning and audit process as defined in the role of this committee.
- Faculty has systematically been eliminated from decisions in the university. Does the university want our input and how can we participate in the process to do this.
 - o Keep in mind that we only have a say in academic-related items.
 - o How can we be inserted in the process?
- University budgets should be more transparent. Comments included:
 - o What can we negotiate with the Provost and administration to get access in a meaningful way?
 - o How do units get their budget and ability to review it?
 - o Is using a private consulting firm skirting providing information for a public university?
 - o Provost indicated he did not want to disclose the consulting firm findings.
 - o We are not really doing zero based budgeting as "advertised" by the university.
 - o Budget after a process has never been revealed. The parameters have never been revealed.
 - o Ask Tommy Smith (absent) for the budget at the next meeting.
 - o Administration raises should be more transparent like faculty salaries.
 - o There are also Federal reporting requirements. Where are the websites where LSU office of institutional effectiveness and budget items are reported? How much do we spend on instruction in salaries? How much do we spend on central administration? It should be correctly reported on these websites.

- We think the big initiative right now is that we have to transition from a state appropriation for raises model to an internal budgeting for raises model right? Because we can't rely on the legislature to do this for various reasons, right?
- Raises are not even keeping up with cost of living, let alone the raises promising faculty. The question is, who is our audience? The legislature is in our audience. This legislature doesn't care about this. We can't directly talk to them, anyway, and when you go to the Legislature, yes, they're putting together a fiscal budget.
- No budget line for raises in the governor's budget this year.
- We have infinite needs on campus. We need to rank order our needs like raises, library updates, etc.
 - Another thought is the library should not be the charge of faculty but administration since it is part of facilities.
- Inessa reminded us we are always welcome to attend the faculty senate executive committee meetings
- Concern about budgeted rises for faculty versus administration. Example given was 15% raises for administration versus less than 5% rises for faculty. Faculty raises are at the mercy of the legislatures
- Salary discounts for childcare. Faculty retention is affected by childcare and education options in the area. Or 50% tuition remission for child dependents similar to other institutions
- Think about proposing a study group to explore these issues. What are the particular expertise we would need for this committee
- Discussion about parking issues for faculty who are involved with faculty governance. We have no place to meet where parking is accessible without either department or individuals having to pay for parking after the change in the C lot access. This makes getting a quorum more difficult and raises faculty frustration, reducing participation. So far, Parking & Transportation has been unresponsive to requests for C lot parking for those involved in Faculty Senate and committees without the additional cost of the universal parking tag fee.