

Request for Action: Budget and Planning Committee 08-09

Presidential Response: August 20, 2009

The charges of the committee were:

Identify institutions where faculty senates have a role in the planning and budgeting process.

Review the processes at these institutions and their applicability to UNR.

Discuss potential roles in the budget process with UNR administrators.

Provide the senate with a report and recommendations of what might be implemented at UNR.

The committee identified the processes they would use, the questions they wanted answered and administrators that they wanted to interview, comparisons of results, and making recommendations. The Committee identified peer institutions that they wanted to interview or look at for budget committees and their processes. Administrators interviewed were: Bruce Shively, Assistant Vice President for Planning Budget and Analysis and Jannet Vreeland, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost. The committee also met with Faculty Senate Chair Steve Rock and Chair Elect Bill Follette.

After meeting with these four people, the committee felt that the model established by President Glick using the Academic Leadership Council and the President's Council was sufficient at this time. However, the effectiveness of this model would depend on the president in place. This model does allow faculty input as both the Rock and Follette sit in the two councils.

MOTION: Vogel/Skelly. To approve the report as published.

ACTION: Passed unanimously

Recommendations:

Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Institutional Planning and Budget Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Do not establish a planning and budget committee at this time, but rather utilize the model established by President Glick for faculty input
 - a. Formalize this model and explain it to faculty senators
 - b. Seek ways to allow senators and their constituents to have input through the Chair and Chair Elect
 - c. Communicate to the faculty at large about the system that is in place
2. Meet (Chair and Chair Elect) with Bruce Shively on a more frequent and regular basis, once per semester, for example
3. Invite Bruce and/or Planning, Budget and Analysis staff to Faculty Senate Meetings once per semester
4. Request Planning, Budget and Analysis staff to address any planning and budget related questions or issues raised by senators or their constituents
5. Re-evaluate this model of faculty input into the planning and budget process within one year of any new president

Reasoning: From the benchmark study, the committee learned that although most institutions have a faculty planning and budget committee, the effectiveness of the committee is often determined by the current university president. Given that the current president at UNR has established a system he appears to be comfortable with, and one that does allow for faculty input at a high level, the faculty senate should embrace this model to make it as effective as possible.

Presidential Response: Approve all recommendations.