

Minutes for 15 October 2015 Meeting of ECU University Budget Committee

Attending:

Regular Members

Terry Atkinson, Nelson Cooper, Guglielmo Fucci, Shanan Gibson, Jeff Popke, Mark Sanders

Ex-officio Members

Kylie Dotson Blake, Joe Gaddis, Rick Niswander, Carson Pierce, Kerry Sewell, Wanda Wynne

Not Present:

Susan Chapman, Stephanie Colman, Bonnie Mani, Gary Vanderpool,

The meeting began at 3:02 p.m.

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the 17 September 2015 Budget Committee meeting

The minutes of the 17 September 2015 Budget Committee meeting were approved by acclamation.

Item 2: Comments from Dr. Rick Niswander, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance

Dr. Niswander is overall optimistic about several building projects coming up. ECU will proceed with creating a Student Services building downtown that would house the Cashier's Office, Admissions, Career Services, Financial Aid, and Heritage Hall. The building will be between 3rd and 4th street, 3-4 stories, with a 500 car parking garage.

The Registrar's Office, Office of Sponsored Programs and Grants, and other student services have moved into the Superblock space in uptown Greenville. The Cashier's Office, Admissions, Career Services and Financial Aid will move upon construction of the Student Services building at the corner of Reade and Cotanche. Their current space will be backfilled with office space needed as Slay and Umstead are converted back to student housing.

Dr. Niswander noted that we still don't know the precise effect on ECU from the recently passed state budget, which contains an \$18M cut to the UNC system. It is expected that we will know more after the Board of Governor's meeting at the end of October. ECU's cut is expected to be between \$2M –\$2.5M. This would likely result in a 1.1%-1.25% cut to the university's Divisions. Next year the cut to the UNC system is budgeted at \$25M.

The state budget capped state funding for Advancement activities at \$1M. It was noted that although the concept of limiting state funding to raise non-state money is valid, the reality is something else. It is expected that the cap will be repealed; nevertheless, the university has a plan B and C for Advancement if the cap remains in place. These plans would include using non-restricted funds for necessary Advancement activities.

The March statewide ballot will contain a bond referendum that includes \$90 million for a new 180K sq./ft. Science building. The building will house all of the Department of Biology, as well as other departments and offices, and be located in one of three locations: between the Sci-Tech building and Umstead, site of the present ECU Police building on Library Circle, or on the site of the former Hardee's building.

Eighty percent of the 5% tuition increase passed last year will go towards EPA raises and be supplemented with additional funding from the university. The merit pool is approximately 2.4% of current salary funding. The raises will be exclusively merit based and are limited to 90% of EPA employees who must have been employed in their current position prior to Jan. 1. Raises are capped at 9.9% of an individual's current salary. Approximately 81% of ECU EPA employees are faculty and 19% are EPA non-faculty.

Dr. Niswander doesn't specifically know the status of the promotion and tenure raise recommendation submitted by the Budget Committee to the Faculty Senate and endorsed as Resolution #15-21 at its February meeting. He suggested the committee would need to ask the

Provost, but indicated that the issue of a centrally funded, standardized promotion and tenure raise is a high priority for ECU.

It was noted that applications to ECU are up 18% and that the entering freshman class is the second highest enrollment ever. Also, the class has the highest GPA and SAT scores.

Dr. Niswander suggested Mike Van Scott, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor of the Division of Research, Economic Development, and Engagement, as a speaker at a future Budget Committee meeting.

Item 3: Old Business

Jeff Popke brought up the issue carried over from last year to investigate best practices in measuring faculty productivity to determine whether ECU's use of the UNC Enrollment Change Funding Formula is the most appropriate means of determining workload policy. Terry Atkinson, Kylie Dotson Blake, and Jeff Popke agreed to serve on a task force to survey other institutions' funding formulas based upon workload definitions.

The meeting concluded 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Sanders