

Minutes for 15 September 2016 meeting of ECU University Budget Committee

Attending:

Ryan Beeson, Stephanie Coleman, Cindy Elmore, Peter Franks, Joe Gaddis, Shanan Gibson, David Loy, Bonnie Mani, Rick Niswander, Jeff Popke, Mark Sanders, Kerry Sewell, Gary Vanderpool, Wanda Wynne

The meeting began at 3:00 p.m.

1. The Chair of the Faculty, John Stiller, began the meeting with introductions and a review of the committee packet materials - particularly the charge of the committee. He added advice to concentrate on a product, keep philosophical discussions to a minimum, read materials in advance, don't be afraid to make a negative recommendation, to report to the Faculty Senate in a clear and concise way, and to keep good records. He specifically asked the committee to review the PRR for Revised Reimbursable Travel for Non-State Employees and provide advice to the Senate no later than Tuesday, November 1, 2016.
<http://www.ecu.edu/prr/02/07/06>
2. Stiller opened nominations for the committee chair. Gibson and Popke were nominated. Gibson withdrew from nomination and Popke was elected by acclamation. David Loy was nominated as Vice Chair and elected by acclamation. Sanders was nominated as Secretary and elected by acclamation.
3. Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Rick Niswander, provided a budget update. The campus had an approximately 1% cut in state appropriations. ECU received \$10M in enrollment increase funding. Of the increase, \$5M will be distributed permanently and \$5M held and earmarked for permanent allocation next year. The legislature will be back in session in January for a long session and there is no telling what will happen given that the upcoming election will set the budget parameters/agenda. Fall 2016 enrollment is just shy of 29,000 and growth is predominantly in graduate programs. This bodes well for next fiscal year funding and we should know more in October.

Revisions to the tuition and fee process is starting. The legislature passed fixed tuition for incoming resident, undergraduate freshmen and transfer students. They are entitled to fixed tuition for four years. This doesn't count for out-of-state residents or graduate students. Now tuition rates will be all over the place. Revisions to the process will determine the fixed rate for next year. Currently there are many rates and little instructions. The BOG may set different caps. Other states have tried approaches to fixed tuition rates and generally it falls apart after about three years. VC Niswander cannot recall a state that has done it and sustained it for a reasonable period of time. Effective fall 2018 fees are capped at 3% increase per year. GA wants to include only those fees that the BOG approves (e.g. not course fees or dining fees). Not doing so would kill any student financed construction. Finally, in regards to campus construction, in this decade ECU will

construct more buildings (28) than any decade since 1960 (34). The previous decade saw only 15.

On the subject of differential tuition VC Niswander noted that all tuition has to be approved by BOG. Generally, differential tuition is only for graduate programs and is for highly competitive programs for students and faculty.

ECU salaries received a 1.5% permanent increase across the board. There is a .5% one-time bonus for all state-funded employees. There is also a 1% one-time bonus allocated for all state-funded employees. It must be merit based and is a bonus, not permanent. For EHRA ECU is using the spread of raises allocated as part of permanent raise allocation. People in top 50% percentile will receive 1.1% and those below the 50% percentile will receive .9%. SHRA will receive amounts varying from \$400-600. From tuition revenues, ECU has a pot of money supplemented with \$1M of enrollment increase. The 2.45 % total increase can go to no more than 90% of the population. Finally, last year saw 87 faculty throughout campus receiving an equity increase.

4. The committee must elect one person to serve on the Tuition and Fees committee. Shanah Gibson was nominated and elected by acclamation. [updated 09.19.16 – Once dates for the Tuition and Fees committee were known, Gibson was unable to serve. Cindy Elmore was nominated and elected to serve instead]
5. The committee will look at the PRR report for Revised Reimbursable Travel for Non-State Employees. Popke tasked everyone on the committee to looking it over and letting him know of anything problematic. We will finalize work on it at the October meeting.
6. The minutes from the April meeting were approved.
7. Popke will extend an invitation to Provost Mitchelson to attend the October meeting. Topics to be addressed would include the status of salary benchmark data and faculty workload policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Sanders