

Minutes for 16 November 2017 meeting of ECU University Budget Committee (UBC)

Attending:

Haley Creef, Cindy Elmore, Bonnie Mani, Rick Niswander, Mark Sanders, Wanda Wynne

The meeting began at 3:01 p.m.

1. The minutes of the October 19, 2017, meeting were approved
2. The Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Dr. Rick Niswander, provided the committee with an overview of the UNC budget approval process and the outcomes that affect ECU. Our campus had no budget cut this year, which is the first time in many years that has been the case. However, next year a \$7M cut is projected for the UNC system – of which ECU will face approximately \$600K. This year saw an additional \$40M for employee compensation (SHRA \$1K each and EHRA by merit), but nothing much has been budgeted by the General Assembly for next year. The Vice Chancellor noted that the state retirement plan is fully funded based on projections (somewhat unusual compared to other states), but that the health plan is a pay as you go system. He also noted the advantages and disadvantages of the retirement plans offered by the state.

In response to a question, Dr. Niswander noted that the former ECU logo will eventually be replaced with the new one on all building signs on campus. The project will occur in zones and take at least a year, maybe two. The total cost for labor and materials is approximately \$200K. ECU is also replacing all the wrapping on the buses, but that's paid by transit fee.

ECU BOT approved no tuition increase for the coming year. There will be small fee increases of \$25 for the student union and \$20 for the SRC. The \$5 sustainability fee did not pass. Dr. Niswander noted that campus was asked to "consider" and will likely be asked to actually reduce tuition and fees next year. We do not know the enrollment increase number yet, but should within the next several days. North Carolina is fortunate in that we see proportional budget increases based upon enrollment whereas in many states they do not.

3. Bonnie Mani noted two items coming out of Faculty Senate committee meetings. One concerns a library initiative to include a field in the Banner course catalog that notes courses with no textbook costs. It could be that the course uses books available in [free electronic format](#), [open educational resources \(OERs\)](#), or something else. Some faculty have expressed concern that it would encourage students to seek courses with no costs for course materials and avoid those with costs for required materials.
4. Another item involves H.B. 527 which requires the University of North Carolina Board of Governors to adopt a uniform speech policy for all campuses in the UNC system. It also directs the board to form a Committee on Free Expression. That body would enforce the speech policy across all UNC campuses.

The meeting ended at 4:35 p.m.