Minutes for the April 26, 2018, meeting of the ECU University Budget Committee (UBC)

Attending:
Susan Chapman, Stephanie Coleman, Cindy Elmore, Joe Gaddis, Becky Gardner, Amy Frank, Bonnie Mani, Mark Sanders, Kerry Sewell, Sarah Thorndike, Gary Vanderpool

Guest: Mike Van Scott

1. The minutes of the March meeting were approved with an editorial change.

2. Sarah Thorndike, the new Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, introduced herself and invited the committee to work with her division on issues of common interest. Transparency, openness, and effective communication are priorities for her. Vice Chancellor Thorndike offered to be a resource to help answer any questions the committee may have.

3. Mike Van Scott - representing Vice Chancellor of Research, Economic Development and Engagement (REDE) Jay Golden, provided an overview of finances in REDE. He described the departments in the division and how the funding reflects the mixture of distinct roles. REDE has a small operating budget and most funds in division are coming in and flowing out to other areas. The main expenses are personnel, seed grant programs, community outreach projects, faculty buyouts, and startup programs. REDE has four sources of funding - state, F&A from grants, direct costs on grants, and licensing income. He provided a spreadsheet handout that covered the state and F&A program. Extramural funding peaked at $38M and is down to $25M this year. The Brody Medical School represents 50-60% of ECU's grant portfolio - typical of a medical school. The largest grant activity in Arts and Sciences is in biology, physics, chemistry. Social sciences and humanities are smaller and fellowships are more often seen. A question was asked about proposals that are rejected and does the university ever get feedback about how to better support development? Unfortunately, rejections are sent to PIs, not the institution. However, REDE has asked them how better to support faculty efforts and stands ready to do so, but faculty are often reluctant to share critiques. REDE was reorganized recently and now has a strategic research development side and a strategic compliance side.

Dr. Van Scott described the new greenhouse to be constructed across the Tar River above the flood plain on seven acres of university purchased land. The land is cleared and ready to go. The project will put in all the infrastructure for larger greenhouses and but only build the space needed now. However, it will be ready to quickly build more if a partner comes in. He also described plans for Building 43. After some renovations, it will be an open, creative space, with flat screens for design and comfortable collision space for faculty. Deans Eakins and Ploehn have worked on the designs for that. It was noted that the advantage of millennial campus designation is that money stays here. Any new research buildings will likely go on a designated millennial campus. The entire medical campus is designated as a millennial campus.

4. Guests and topics for the upcoming year were discussed. Suggestions included more information on the master plan, inviting Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Operations Bill Bagnell, and inviting legislative liaison Michelle Brooks.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.