

FINAL

**East Carolina University (ECU) Standing Academic Committee
2013/2014 University Budget Committee**

Minutes of the January 16, 2014, meeting:

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Attending: Susan Chapman, Todd Fraley, Guglielmo Fucci, Joe Gaddis, John Given, Robert Kulesher, Bonnie Gail Mani, Jeff Popke, Rachel Roper, Gary Vanderpool, and Wanda Wynne.

Guest: Ron Mitchelson, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies

The minutes of the October 17, 2013, meeting were approved contingent upon two editorial corrections.

University Budget Committee Secretary Kirk St. Amant will be teaching at the time of this semester's meetings. Therefore he cannot serve as committee secretary. Jeff Popke asked for nominations for replacements. Bonnie G. Mani said she was willing to serve, was nominated, and was approved by acclamation to serve as committee secretary.

Jeff Popke summarized the mission of the University Committee on Fiscal Sustainability (UCFS) as it was explained by Chancellor Ballard at the beginning of the academic year. He then discussed the relationship between the mission and membership of UCFS and the University Budget Committee.

Next the guest speaker at the meeting, Ron Mitchelson, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies, gave a presentation.

So far the UCFS has received descriptive reports from a number of constituencies, including enrollment services, athletics, academic libraries, student affairs, and auxiliaries. Dr. Mitchelson has taken the initiative to conduct some analysis of data related to these reports.

The steep decline in ECU graduate enrollments is a concern.

To date enrollment growth at ECU has been an important goal. There was enrollment growth for several years during the Great Recession but recently enrollments have been constant. The University expects a budget adjustment for this reason.

If enrollments increase then expect overhead (administration and finance) to decrease.

Units need to develop and enforce a workload policy.

On March 15 draft report from the UCFS is due.

An analysis of revenue and enrollments is underway.

Division of Research & Graduate Studies is being considered for elimination.

Compared to other universities in the University of North Carolina System, ECU has more colleges. The UCFS is considering reducing the number of colleges at ECU.

The UCFS is considering consolidation of departments.

Consolidation of support services is being considered.

Data from the registrar revealed 178 classes with fewer than 5 students. Dr. Mitchelson and the UCFS will analyze reasons these classes are small. In some cases—e. g., studio classes in the School of Music—small groups are characteristic of the unit's mission. In other cases units will need to justify or eliminate classes with fewer than 5 students.

Savings are possible if very small upper level classes are cancelled and the professor assigned to teach the small class is reassigned to a lower level class. Then a fixed term professor's contract can be terminated.

Some support services, like mail services, have been consolidated to reduce ECU expenditures. Administrative support services in departments also may be centralized.

East Carolina University has more degree programs than comparable universities in the UNC System. ECU has 102 undergraduate degree programs compared to less than 70 in Charlotte and Greensboro.

In the coming year ECU should expect a four to five percent budget cut.

Retirement incentives are being considered.

After Dr. Mitchelson's presentation and discussion of the new University Committee on Fiscal Sustainability, Jeff Popke asked a recurring question, "What should be the role of the UBC?" He mentioned that Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Rick Niswander, Provost Marilyn Sheerer, and Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies Ron Mitchelson had given presentations to the committee in the three meetings this academic year.

There was some discussion about the need for analysis of descriptive data in reports prepared and submitted to Ron Mitchelson. Bonnie Mani and John Given suggested that volunteers for a subcommittee of the Budget Committee meet/work during the summer to review data/reports, develop alternative action items, and survey other faculty members online over summer.

One possible action is to examine faculty workloads. There may be more support for this now than there was in 2008.

Publicly-available salary data suggest that some, but not all faculty members have received

promotion raises. John Given is currently doing a study on salaries. The University The Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women (CCSW) has requested an equity study on faculty and staff including salary and has had several meetings about a study with ECU administration since summer 2011. Rachel Roper (faculty co-chair CCSW) has been working with Donna Payne (university attorney) on bringing in an outside consultant to perform a faculty equity study. The Request for Proposals is now in ECU Materials Management and should go out soon.

Faculty Welfare Committee has been analyzing data from IPAR on gender composition of departments and comparing ECU to national data from the Oklahoma study.

Jeff Popke suggested discussion of other agenda items, including the budget primer, be tabled until the next University Budget Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:11