COMMITTEE: University Budget Committee

MEETING DATE: January 16, 2003

PERSON PRESIDING: Rick Niswander

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: A. Rodriguez, H. Ferrell, P. Clark, L. Mayne, R. Niswander, K. Walsh

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: R. Brown, B. Morrison, G. Vanderpool, M. McCarthy

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: L. Lee, J. Gaddis, J. Westmoreland

ACTIONS OF THE MEETING:
Minutes of the November 21, 2002 meeting were approved. Motion made & approved to send minutes of this committee to the deans of the various schools.

Richard Brown presented information on the current state of the 2003 operating budget. Increases in enrollment, out-of-state tuition, and distance education fees have allowed some dollars to be re-allocated for areas that were reduced due to state budget reversions. These include the utility deficit, furnishings and equipment for the Science & Technology Building, the computing center, and demolition of purchased buildings. Shortages in operating funds still remain and the requested priorities of the various units are not funded at the requested capacity. Distance education continues to be difficult to project and allocate spending. Next year’s budget is likely to be as bad, if not worse. If the state mandates another 10% reversion, the university will be out of “one time” solutions and deeper cuts will be required. New enrollment was used to offset cuts, so essentially we are where we were two years ago.

R. Niswander led a discussion about the university spending large amounts of money on a comprehensive integrated computer system that would handle most of the administrative functions of the campus. Members shared that the systems are almost always obsolete by the time they are up and operating. Needs of students (such as face-to-face advising) and quality of services provided (scheduling, inter-library loans etc) should be looked at in regard to how such a system would improve (or worsen) the provision of such services.

Two years ago the committee held forums for staff and faculty to voice their concerns and opinions about where and how budget cuts should occur. The committee then made recommendations for a 10% cut but in increments of 1%. Priorities may have changed and so the committee will undertake this task again this year in preparation for further budget cuts. Members also requested receiving monthly reports of status of vacant positions and any reports of how cost saving measures enacted in the last two years actually led to savings of dollars

NEXT MEETING: February 20, 2003, at 4:00 p.m. in the Rawl Annex, #142