

Minutes, University Budget Committee, Jan. 16, 2020

Regular members in attendance: Mark Sanders, Amy Frank, Uduak Akpan, Holly Wei, Cindy Elmore, Steven Garrett

Ex-officio members in attendance: Stephanie Coleman, Gary Vanderpool, Susan Chapman, Peter Francia

Faculty Senate Chair Jeff Popke also attended.

1. UBC Chair Holly Wei called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.
2. Minutes of the Oct. 17 meeting were approved.
3. Today's originally scheduled presenter could not attend, and that presentation has been moved to March.
4. New Business
 - Fixed-term advancement in title raises: Faculty Senate Chair Jeff Popke reported that in 2015 the UBC recommended that raise amounts for faculty promotion should be standardized across campus. As part of that report, the UBC also recommended that fixed term faculty raises for promotion should also be standardized, but no recommended amounts were determined. He urged the UBC to replicate its 2015 effort to determine if it wants to put forth a proposal on the fixed term promotion-raise process. A subcommittee will ask all the deans if they have such a policy or a consistent fixed-term faculty raise for promotions. Once that information is obtained, the subcommittee can determine how many advances in title ECU has in a standard year for fixed-term faculty. Consequently, the subcommittee can report how much the standardized raises would cost ECU in a typical year. Peter Francia and Mark Sanders volunteered for the subcommittee and Jeff Popke said he would also participate. He suggested the subcommittee have the information in hand to report to the Faculty Senate in March.
 - Faculty involvement in university budget process. On Jan. 16, Faculty Senate Chair Jeff Popke emailed UBC members information and links to policies at other universities describing faculty involvement in budgetary processes as well as delineating communication with faculty about budget matters. In addition to the UBC's consideration of this issue, parallel conversations are also going on in the Faculty Officers group about ways to get faculty more involved in ECU's budget process and setting budgetary decisions. Jeff Popke reported that interim chancellor Mitchelson has said he is open to allowing greater faculty participation. Typically, during good budgetary years, the college deans make presentations to the provost delineating their budgetary requests. Popke said it would be appropriate to have faculty sit in on these dean-provost sessions.

Jeff Popke said there is a window at the moment to develop a process for greater faculty involvement in the budget process that could be in place

when a new chancellor arrives. The UBC's charge says that it will give advice to the chancellor on budgetary matters, but this does not currently happen. A subcommittee will work on the issue. The subcommittee consists of Steven Garrett, Puri Martinez, and Jeff Popke. Cindy Elmore volunteered to join the subcommittee. Holly Wei asked for an update at the next UBC meeting.

- Revise charge to include member on the administrative tuition & fees subcommittee. UBC representative to the subcommittee Uduak Akpan reported on the subcommittee's recommendations for various tuition and fee increases for next year. She reported that as a result of student opposition to the athletics fee increase, it was recommended that the interim chancellor charge a committee with input from students to look into how an athletics fee increase might be avoided next year. Jeff Popke added that the student government president forcefully articulated student objections to the athletic fee increase throughout the process. At present, the intent is to have another \$50 student athletic fee increase next year.

Jeff Popke recommended the UBC draft language to the Committee on Committees formalizing UBC membership on the tuition and fees subcommittee. He offered to come up with the language, have UBC members vote by email, and send it to the Committee on Committees.

- A discussion was held regarding changes to the remaining UBC meeting dates for the semester, given that several conflict with meetings of the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors. This conflict means that ex-officio member Sara Thorndike cannot attend the UBC meetings. To avoid this conflict in the future, it was recommended that the UBC charge be reworded to say only that the UBC will meet monthly on a Thursday with specific dates set at the committee's first meeting of each academic year. Jeff Popke offered to write this language, which the UBC will vote on via email.

To avoid the conflicts this spring, the following new meeting dates will be considered: Feb. 13, March 5, and April 9. Holly Wei will ask the originally scheduled presenters if they can move their presentations to the new dates. She will send calendar reminders to UBC members with any changes in the dates.

- Jeff Popke gave an update on the search for a new chancellor. After receiving input from constituents at forums and via survey, a Faculty Senate committee will meet in February to draft a leadership statement for the search, which will then begin. He reported that it is important for faculty to reach out to potential candidates at other universities, particularly since there is no search firm involvement in the process. While there is a search consultant, the consultant has no experience in higher education administrative searches. Popke wants to ensure that faculty input counts for more than that of other constituencies. At present, there is a 25% response rate to the chancellor search survey.

5. The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.