

Senate Budget & Planning Council
Minutes for October 4, 2011
College Hall Conference Room 312

Members present: S. Godar, B. McClosky, D. Potacco, P. Theus, H. Wilder, D. Koistinen, D. Miller, S. Bolyai (administrative rep),
Members excused: S. Ferris
Visiting: D. Falk-Romaine

Meeting convened: 3:40 pm

1. D. Falk-Romaine, Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate presented the council with its charges. The committee said that Charge #1 (Review student scholarship policies and procedures) would be better addressed by the Admissions & Enrollment Council. Falk-Romaine agreed to bring it back to the Executive Council. There was also a question as to what was meant by “administrative personnel” in Charge #4 (Conduct a study to analyze the growth costs of administrative personnel) – more clarification is needed for this. Re. Charge #5 (conduct a study to analyze fundraising efforts) it was agreed that Pamela Ferguson, the new Vice President for Institutional Advancement should be invited to a council meeting since she is most likely already investigating this.
2. The proposal developed by the presidents of NJ colleges and universities (including Pres. Waldron) to have the state obtain (via state bonds) funding for capital projects was discussed. It is hoped that the bond question would go on the state 2012 ballot. WPU has asked for \$200 million.
3. S. Godar and H. Wilder were elected co-chairs of the council.
4. Prioritization of the council charges was discussed. Given the upcoming timeframe of the drafting and adoption of the Strategic Plan, it made sense to look at Charge #2 (how the strategic plan relates to budgeting processes and faculty involvement). S. Bolyai explained that decisions in the Strategic Plan will drive funding decisions. S. Godar pointed out that the level of debt service we take on should be part of the Strategic Plan. WPU historically has had an exceptionally low debt service (compared to our sister schools).
5. S. Bolyai said that next year they will be revising the Facilities Plan once the Strategic Plan is in place. He also explained that plans for the parking garage are being designed and that the university would then look to see if a private partnership would be feasible to fund the construction, otherwise, WPU would take on another bond.
6. S. Bolyai said that he would like to hold another Town Hall meeting for community input on the 2013-2014 budget sometime in November and then again in the spring. November 17 may be the best day for this. This would address Charge #3 (provide faculty input on allocation of funds for budget). It was also suggested that Bolyai explain to the faculty how the input from last year’s town hall meeting went into the decisions made in the budget supplement sent out over the summer. Since we are still developing a budget ‘process’ which involves bottom-up input and faculty are still unsure of how this works, it was suggested that the town hall meeting make the ‘process’ more clear to the faculty.

7. The question of getting a faculty representative on the Cabinet was discussed and it was decided to prompt the Executive Council on this.
8. S. Bolyai presented the council with a printed copy of the 2012 internal budget. H. Wilder is in possession of this – please contact her if you want to see it. A copy is also available in Cheng Library. He also handed out copies of the Priorities Requests from the 2012 budget that was submitted to the state last year.
9. Other questions that S. Bolyai answered: enrollment is up 1.5%, and Pam Winslow is working on an in-house budget program, after investigating a number of commercial systems.

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, Nov. 1st, to be followed by a meeting on Tues. Dec. 6. Both meetings will be held from 3:30-4:30 since this time seems to work for most council members.

Meeting adjourned: 4:45 pm

H. Wilder, Minute taker