

Friday, May 27, 2011

Dear Kathryn,

The following is the yearend report for the Budget and Planning Committee to the University Council. This year the work of the committee occurred on several fronts. The chair joined and participated in the work of the Position Review Committee. The committee began work on a budget review process. The integration of shared governance into the campus planning discussions continued. The Committee worked with the administration on the drafting of the Financial Sustainability Plan. Finally the formal adoption of by-laws this year will strengthen the committee as we move forward.

The administration began the year with the creation of the Position Review Committee for the purpose of formalizing and extending the discussion of making personnel decisions on campus. The result was the adding the Chair of Budget and Planning to the conversation and thus providing access to the process for the larger campus community. This move was not without some controversy, the creation of the PRC section in the Budget and Planning web site has helped facilitate the creation of this new channel of communication. The building of trust that is occurring between the committee and the administration will help expand this conversation next year.

The coming year the committee will be working closely with the new Vice President for Finance and Administration and our colleagues in the School of Business to create a budget review process for the committee. Identifying and sharing a common set of data sources from which budget decisions are drawn will be the first step in this discussion. The Budget Chair was a member of the search committee for the V.P. position this will help to start the budget review process sooner in the coming year. Having a budget review process that is explicitly linked to the strategic plan will help the committee better advise the President as we implement the Plan for Financial Sustainability in the coming years.

The administration has demonstrated a real desire for the Shared Governance process model to succeed and help guide the discussions regarding EOU's future. More work must be done to ensure the survival and growth of this process. The Administration across all units must come to expect and support committee work from all of their employees. Release time must be identified and encouraged to allow attendance of committee, council or senate meetings for all who wish to participate. The various bodies represented on the committees, councils and senates must expect regular reports from their representatives on the business of the council,

committee or senate. This will send the message from the top as well as from colleagues that the work is important and the results of that work matter. These raised expectations on everyone's part will hopefully reduce the problem we had at the end of this year with the committee. There are only two members from this year who are continuing next year. The design is to have half the membership continue on to the next year. We had half of our members resign over the course of the year. This does not make for a stable and robust shared governance system.

I think that there needs to be a discussion about the size and levels of representation on some of the committees. The diversity committee addressed the issue this year and I think the Budget and Planning committee should have a similar discussion. I want to thank the administration for their work towards building the levels of trust required of shared governance, specifically the release to the committee of the OUS functional review audit for IT. The committee for this year is reading and preparing comments. Next year's committee is reading the report in preparation for the continuation of this very important discussion.

The committee completed its work in drafting and adopting a set of by-laws for the coming years. The committee next year should revisit the by-laws with respect to the membership as mentioned above. They should also consider moving the election of the vice chair position until the first fall meeting to help encourage the new members to become more involved and be ready to move up to the chair position at the end of their first year. I have agreed to stay on as the Chair for the next year, as only one of two members continuing on for a second year. Les Mueller, who will be taking over the remainder of Shari Carpenter's term, is the Vice Chair.

Finally, I want to thank Teresa Carson-Mastrude for her unfailing support of the committee and the enormous amount of work she did for us. Scheduling, taking minutes and ensuring that all the necessary communication was taking place to get the participation from the committee that we did. Thank You Teresa. I also want to thank Darlene Morgan for supporting Teresa in her work with the committee. Finally I want to thank the members of the Executive Council and Dennis Hopwood for helping me find my way on the PRC and making me feel a part of that committee. Thank You

Sincerely,

Ken Watson  
Chair Budget and Planning Committee