

## *Minutes*

Faculty Council Budget Committee  
December 2, 2002  
419 Student Union

Present: Comer, Ebro, Gelfand, Radford, Warde

- I. Gelfand opened the meeting with a discussion of the issue of fee waivers. Warde distributed information on the OSU Alumni Legacy Award program. This program is not designed to recruit top scholars but rather to attract children and grandchildren of out-of-state alumni who probably would not consider attending OSU at out-of-state tuition rates.

The committee discussed whether a 2.0 GPA was sufficient to continue receiving the award; the philosophy of the award argues against raising it, though simply staying out of probation does not strike the committee as being sufficiently rigorous to maintain the award. Warde also distributed a chart of student GPAs by class, providing the committee with the means to evaluate how many students would lose their awards for each 0.5 increment of GPA above 2.0.

No clear consensus was reached on the GPA issue, and discussion moved on.

- II. Gelfand explained the circumstances that occurred in the November Executive Committee meeting with respect to the Budget Committee's draft recommendation concerning coaching salaries. The Budget Committee had endorsed the recommendation via e-mail prior to the November Faculty Council meeting. The recommendation called on the president to institute a moratorium on raises for any University personnel during the current budget crisis, particularly the already well-paid athletic coaches.

The recommendation was spurred by wide media attention on the issue of the basketball coach's recent contract extension and probable raise, though the press reports indicated that OSU would not publicize the financial terms due to possible negative campus reaction in light of the on-going academic budget crisis. The news reports of the morning of December 2 concerning a probable raise and contract extension for the football coach following the victory over OU refreshed this issue.

The recommendation's rationale was that, given the harsh financial times the University is currently experiencing, raises for OSU's two highest paid employees (total compensation) were an insult to the faculty and staff, and would damage morale for everyone else who did not receive raises this fall, who are facing higher insurance premiums in January 2003, and who may be facing furloughs or other negative financial impacts.

Gelfand reported that a small majority of the Executive Committee felt that such a recommendation would be perceived as whining by the faculty, that the recommendation would thus fail, that such a failure would weaken the Faculty Council's effectiveness,

and that faculty should accept the price of being in the Big XII athletic conference. Despite these explanations, not all of the Budget Committee members were mollified by this outcome and continue to feel that such extravagant coaching raises are inimical to the well being of the University.

- III. The committee then discussed the long-term lack of consultation by the administration with appropriate faculty committees, including University Budget Committee, Faculty Council Budget Committee, and Faculty Council Retirement and Fringe Benefits Committee. The committee discussed ways to convince administration to seek faculty input on budget issues and decisions.
- IV. Gelfand sought input on meeting times and topics for the spring term. The next meeting of Budget Committee is tentatively scheduled for January 6, 2003, at 12:00 P.M. in the Union. He also asked the committee members present to provide topics and ideas for the committee to pursue in the spring.
- V. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Jon Comer