

Faculty Council Budget Committee
December 2, 2003
302 Student Union

Present: Ebro, Fullerton, Gelfand, Radford, Raff, Warde

Warde passed out a draft copy of the faculty survey. Members of the committee are to evaluate the survey and provide comments/changes to Warde prior to Dec. 18. Then Fullerton will post the survey on the web. The survey will be conducted via email at the beginning of the spring semester.

Committee Chair Scott Gelfand opened the meeting and presented information from the University Budget Committee Meeting as follows:

1. Provost Strathe announced that the salary fund balance available at the end of the year would be divided 1/3 for administration and 2/3 to go back to the colleges and/or departments. This is a change from prior years when the administration had taken up to 75% of these funds.
2. Fee/Tuition structure was discussed in detail. The administration reported that the State Legislature was critical of the high fees at OSU. An idea was proposed to eliminate fees altogether and make up the money in the form of tuition. All tuition would go to central administration, who would then allocate money back to the departments according to the fees that they would have otherwise collected. Faculty is concerned that the money may not come back to the departments and therefore negatively affect the departments' functioning and planning.
3. There is less than \$1 million in the fund balance and there should be about \$12 million in that account.
4. The legislature complained about the tuition waivers, especially those for out-of-state students.
5. An early retirement proposal was presented. Strathe was opposed to it because the university is down 82 positions and therefore doesn't need to encourage people to retire.
6. The tuition and fee committee proposed that upper and lower division tuition be one rate, which will be the upper division rate.
7. Certain fee caps could be removed to increase income to the university.
8. The per-semester fee of \$115.00 per student could be converted to an \$8.32 per hour fee to increase income for the university.

The Faculty Council budget committee was opposed to the university proposal to roll fees into tuition increases (see 2 above) and therefore decided to write a resolution to voice opposition. A 5 to 1 vote (Radford against) was taken in favor of presenting a resolution on the matter to faculty council. Gelfand took notes and said that he would draft the resolution after the committee meeting so that it could be taken to Executive Committee later that day.

Raff proposed to the committee the need for a university operating account for Faculty Council. He suggested that \$10,000 be put in the account for operation of the council. Other suggestions included a fund-drive that would allow faculty members to “donate” to faculty council by putting personal money into the Faculty Council foundation account. Another proposal was to ask the administration to take the \$9500 that was typically given to the Faculty Council Chair’s department to allow the Chair to have course release time, and place that money in the Faculty Council budget.

Gelfand suggested that we first ask for the administration to provide \$10,000 to faculty council for its operation. After that, investigate the other options.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.