

Minutes

Faculty Council Budget Committee
February 2, 2004
302 Student Union

Present: Fullerton, Gelfand, Radford, Raff, Warde

- I. Gelfand opened the meeting by discussing Gov. Brad Henry's proposal for \$5000 for public school teachers. There was some concern that Higher Education might get left out of the raise program unless we speak up.
- II. Fullerton updated the committee on the status of the faculty survey. A copy of the survey was passed to the members. Fullerton reported that the on-line version should be ready this week. Once the on-line version is working and approved, Gelfand will send it Carol Moder and request that she put it out on the Faculty Listserv.
- III. Joe Weaver was invited to the meeting. Before he arrived several questions for him were discussed, including:
 - A. What is the status of the athletic department's debt to the university?
 - B. Where will the university get money to make OSU a top research institution (as referenced in today's paper) without cutting teaching and extension?
 - C. What is the nature of the Faculty Council account in the Provost's office? We are unable to get an answer from Dr. Strathe's assistance, Denise Weaver.
- IV. When Joe Weaver arrived, he informed the committee that Gov. Henry was giving his State of the State address this afternoon and we would know more about appropriations after the governor's speech. Typically, according to Weaver, the governor sets the base and then the Senate will add more to education appropriations. Weaver said that, "if we get through this legislative session without any cuts, the university would be happy."
 - D. Weaver said that President Schmidly was reminding the Governor not to forget Higher Education in the raise package.
 - E. Weaver said that he didn't recall a year when K-12 teachers got a raise and higher education didn't.
 - F. Weaver was asked when the survey salary from the outside consultant would be ready. He said that he expected it Feb. 1.
 - G. Weaver reported that President Schmidly was working with President Boren to pitch the state for faculty salary increases.
 - H. Weaver reported that he hadn't been asked to develop any "cut scenarios" this year. He only expected to cut some marginal items in administration that were begun last year.
 - I. Weaver reported that a cut in fee waivers will add an additional million to the budget this year and up to \$4 million per year starting in four years.
 - J. In response to the question about athletics, Weaver said that he has

made his case with athletics to re-pay their debt, but doesn't know how they will proceed. Because they are building a stadium, they are reluctant to let go of cash.

- K. In response to the question about research, Weaver said that \$19 in homeland security research money would help the research budget. He didn't see Dr. McKeever wanting to cut instruction to fund more research. He noted that McKeever has \$1 million in new money to commit for start-up programs for new faculty. Weaver wanted to increase that to \$2 million for start-up when debt, which was incurred by VP Collins, was paid down.
- L. When asked about the Strategic Plan, Weaver said that once it is accepted this spring, it will take until FY '06 to implement. He expected to see faculty salaries at the top of the plan.
- M. In a comment about tuition increases, Weaver said that Schmidly has not yet decided whether a tuition increase is necessary. This depends in part on state appropriations.
- N. One tuition increase strategy is to bring lower division tuition rate equal with upper division tuition rate, according to Weaver.
- O. Weaver and the committee discussed in length the advantages and disadvantages of collapsing student fees into one rate. While it will simplify the student's bill, there is a fear that individual departments may not receive enough money to cover their course-related expenses.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.