

Minutes

Faculty Council Budget Committee
March 1, 2004
302 Student Union

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

- I. Warde opened the meeting by discussing the interviews for Assoc. VP/Controller. Warde and Carol Moder met with two candidates and gave their feedback to Bosserman. Warde said either candidate was acceptable, but he preferred the female candidate who is currently employed at OSU-Tulsa.
- II. Fullerton updated the committee on the status of the faculty survey. The survey is ready to administer. Raff made a motion to accept the survey, Smeyak seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Fullerton will send the link via email to Carol Moder prior to the Executive Council Meeting. Gelfand and Moder will discuss how/when to administer the survey.
- III. Gelfand gave a report from the University Budget committee meeting as follows:
 - A. Mark Sweed from the College of Business gave an assessment of the state economy. He believes that it has hit bottom and will show improvement during the last two quarters of 2004. Tax revenues are up only .8% and unemployment continues to be high. The only growth we've seen in the state is a result of oil and gas revenues. The State, however is expecting 4% growth in revenue this year.
 - B. Weaver reported that the university is close to raising the lower-division tuition to the same rate as the upper division tuition. There also may be a raise in upper division tuition.
 - C. Weaver said that the university is in the process of eliminating about 500 special fees and thereby converting these fees to a flat fee to simplify the students' tuition bill. Reportedly, these earmarked fees would still be distributed to the appropriate units, as in the past. Gelfand ask Weaver to give our committee some sample bills so that we can see how the change would make a difference.
 - D. Heintze presented the Enrollment Management plan that Faculty Council saw last month (stablizing freshmen student enrollment by raising admission standards in an effort to stabilize a now-rising student/teacher ratio). Gelfand remains hesitant about the plan due to the potential affect on the university budget and more specifically allocations from the State Legislature if we stop growing or fall significantly below OU in number of students. Gelfand said that Heintze did not yet address the budget implications of this plan. The committee was divided on their support on Heintze plan.
- IV. Gelfand then ask if there were any issues currently before the committee that we wanted to take action on, including:
 - A. Faculty Council Budget (Raff will follow-up with Strathe's office)
 - B. Public Teachers getting a \$5000 raise this year
 - C. Enrollment Management Plan
 - D. Overspending in I.T.

- V. Warde announced that Emsley of Alabama was made an offer for the position of Dean of the Graduate College and Associate VP of Research.

The meeting was adjourned.