

Ad-Hoc Budget Committee report –April 8, 2025

Ad-hoc Budget Committee (BC) included myself as a chair, Heba Abdel-Rahim from College of Business and Innovation, Randy Vesely from College of Education, Samir Hefzy from Engineering, Cindy Bouillon from Health and Human Services, Heidi Shank from Nursing and Margaret Hoogland from University Libraries. I greatly appreciate all their help and expertise.

Budget Committee (BC) met with administration **on November 18th 2024** to discuss the budget. From administration side we had Terence Romer - Chief of Strategy and Business Insights in the Office of the President, Brenda Grant - Associate Vice President for Academic Finance and also Interim Provost Scott Molitor.

One topic discussed was implementation of Incentive Based Budget (or IBB) model, how budget decisions are made at the moment and how the funds are being allocated throughout the university. We were told that it was hard to implement IBB model when enrollment and revenues are declining because IBB model is designed to distribute surpluses rather than cuts. Right now the budgeting decisions are done in manual mode rather than according to the IBB model and budgeting is focused on funding bare-bones operations of the units and colleges and then there are some incentives in terms of smaller budget cuts going to colleges who do better in terms of enrollment and other sources of revenue.

Another topic was funding for the summer school. Dr. Molitor said that decreasing number of course offerings in the summer led to additional savings mainly by increasing enrollment in the existing summer courses and by shifting tuition revenue from summer to Fall and Spring semesters. Later, Provost Molitor shared data via email that showed these trends and also no increase in the number of credit transfers from other schools in order to address concern that our students might be taking summer courses elsewhere. The data also showed substantial cost savings from not paying instructors for the summer courses.

Thanks to Quinetta Hubbard who worked with Web Development, we have the transcript of this meeting posted on FS website along with the follow-up data from Dr. Molitor in regards to summer school enrollments. The link to Faculty Senate website that has this information is included in this report:

<https://www.utoledo.edu/facsenate/ad-hoc-committees/budget.html>

Information about summer school was also shared with the Committee on Student Affairs which is tasked with investigating the impact of broad cancellation of summer courses. This committee is asking a lot of the same questions that we were asking and also many other great questions about summer school.

At the meeting, we also made a request to post current college budgets on MyUT/employee portal. Terence Romer followed up on our request and connected us with Lena Carrol - Associate Vice President of Financial Planning and Budget. On January 28th we emailed Lena requesting to post certain budget

items. We also pointed out to Lena the fact that many similar institutions in Ohio including BGSU have their current university budgets publicly available and attached data from these institutions to support this claim. Lena Carrol replied back to us March 11th saying that despite the fact that the budgets in the old format are no longer available because they used to be compiled by the Huron Consulting Group, her office has been working on recovering prior year's copies of the Blue Book report, which used to be posted on the intranet as well as on MyUT employee tab portal. This Blue Book report listed the fiscal year's base budget for each unit within the university by division and by account detail. Lena also informed that the issue they are facing is the Blue Book report is time sensitive so if the report was not run specifically on the date when the new fiscal year's budget was loaded into Banner, they cannot retrieve the exact information by account detail especially if there were any transactions that impacted those line items after the fiscal year budget was loaded. Therefore, they are currently looking into producing a revised version of the Blue Book report that coincides with the annually approved budget. Lena said that once they can successfully produce and substantiate this budget report, they will revisit the utilization and explore approval to post it online again. We thanked her for this work and also asked whose approval she needed to obtain in order to post the budgets online and BC volunteered to directly petition these entities in order to facilitate prompt action on posting the budgets. We sent this email on March 11th. We had no updates since then.

BC also made a list of things to work on in the future, including:

- Evaluating the data provided by Dr. Molitor regarding summer school to see if we have further ideas on how to improve summer course offerings. For example, by cutting on the number of summer classes and not advertising them we hurt the university bottom line by not letting students from other schools take summer classes at UT.
- Also, with respect to the budget surplus that UT had last year, we can ask finance office if they rely on actual audited financials to adjust projected deficit/surplus. In other words, we want to know to what degree audited financials are used in developing the next year's budget.
- Also, how to facilitate access of faculty and staff to the details about colleges or service areas related to budget income and expenses. And maybe explore the possibility of publicly posting our budgets.