

# Financial Planning Committee

Date: Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Minutes

Approved online Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 2020

In favor= ,4 Against= 0, Abstentions=0

1. Roll Call: Josh Sloan, Rey Martinez, James Peters, Jesus Rivas

Meeting started at 10:30 am.

2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Starting the meeting we reviewed our duties under the handbook and had a discussion of how better attend to them.
4. An animated discussion ensued about the need of transparency regarding financial matters and increasing faculty participation on financial decisions. We felt that faculty needs to have a more active role on the financial decisions at the university. In particular we were puzzled by the fact that the administration refused to give us any raises alleging lack of funding but eventually ended up giving substantial raises, more than was expected before the crisis originated by Covid-19. Also troublesome was the fact that non-union members received fare more salary increases than union members, to the tune of 2.1 million dollars net between raises and new positions.
5. We agreed to request a copy of the budget approved before the financial crises and a copy of the adopted budget in order to better understand the situation and have more transparency and faculty input in the financial affairs
6. The committee felt that out of our members need to be present at the BOR budget meetings, as granted in the Handbook. During the last year we had designated Dr. Peters for that role but this was not followed up or supported by the FS interim leadership of last year. We request that we make it effective in the next BOR
7. We felt that there should be more organic cooperation between the budget committee of the administration and our committee.
8. The committee also was troubled by the lack of transparency regarding procedures for adjusting the budget. The whole university participates in making the budget request with several meetings between faculty, and administration. The budget is eventually decided upon in a fairly transparent process. However, the budgets are later adjusted without any transparency or input from the faculty. The committee felt that the faculty should:
  - a. Have a seat at the table when the budget is being adjusted and be privy to the reasons the adjustments are being made and have participation and a voice in the adjustment
  - b. Request from the administration a set of procedures and guidelines for adjusting the budget. There must be steps needed for adjustments and sweeps to take place. There must be guidelines about the use of funding and how and why moneys are moved from one budget to another.
  - c. In case that sweeps, the relevant faculty (chairs, coordinators) need to be informed of the reasons of the sweep and being informed of how much money will be swept and when. The faculty should have formal channels to appeal these decisions.
9. The committee also discussed the issue of indirect funding from grants and request that the administration is proactive in the implementation of the approved guidelines. We would like the administration to move forward in approving them and bring them up to the BOR in the next opportunity.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 am