

Joint Meeting of Senat and Faculty Council
April 6th, 2010
Meeting Notes

Present:

R. Campbell, P. Berry, E. Wells, K. Bambridge, R. Beattie, L. Beck, C. Brett, G. Briand, T. Craig, S. Claxton-Oldfield, R. Edwards, M. Fariña, N. Farooqi, Z. Finkle, B. Gnassi, O. Griffith, A. Hamilton-Wright, E. Herties, T. Hynes, R. Inglis, A. Irwin, M. Imbeault, P. Kelly-Spurles, R. Lapp, S. Law, M. Lee, K. Liong, R.M. Macpherson, R. Majithia, S. McClatchie, C. Milner, A. Nurse, J. Ollerhead, C. Parker, L. Ricker, H. Patterson, R. Rosebrugh, D. Stewart, R. Summerby-Murray, D. Thomas, H. Vanderleest, N. Vogan, Students: T. Davis, S. Carrigan-Kent, A. Steeves, B. Turkel, N. Walker, D. Bowes, M. Kroeker, S. Humphrey.

The opening remarks from the President highlighted features of a now-familiar and widely-circulated budget, which featured no cuts in expenditures and actual new investment in academic and other programs. The budget has no debt, notwithstanding the ongoing cost pressures associated with a high percentage of full time and low percentage of part-time faculty that is at the heart of our academic quality. There is no sacrificing of quality to maintain the budget, which also is constructed to increase the university's financial sustainability over the long term. Fundraising is a crucial activity in this regard.

This introduction was followed by a detailed, itemized presentation of the proposed budget by the university budget manager, C. Milner. Following the presentation he asked if there were any questions.

N. Farooqi asked why interest income had decreased. R. Inglis attributed the decrease primarily to low interest rates.

T. Davies commented on changes in revenue and suggested that the escalating international student tuition should be noted in the budget. The President clarified that, while domestic student tuition had been frozen with full government compensation, foreign student tuition had not. The latter had been frozen for the two previous years without compensation.

R. Lapp wondered how the University was compensated for the domestic tuition freeze. R. Campbell explained that the increase in provincial government funding was to base funding, and therefore it is not one-time funding. He did wonder how long the provincial government could continue to afford this.

Responding to a question by D. Thomas on the proportion of gifts from donors that are restricted, R. Inglis explained that while most of the gifts have restrictions, there remains some flexibility within those restrictions.

R. Lapp commented on the provision for revenue shortfall, and R. Campbell explained that Board policies required a number of contingency safeguards, including for revenue shortfall and emergencies. These comprised about 1.7% of the budget. In the past, these amounts were expended at year-end and then those amounts had to be found in the following year. Now these amounts are not expended and are carried over so that these amounts do not have to be allocated from current revenues.

T. Davies expressed thanks from the SAC as it was permitted to make a formal budget submission this year as part of the Vice-President International and Student Affairs. He commented that the results of this submission can be seen in the current document (viz. support for academic and career counselling).

R. Lapp commented that he was pleased to see that his budget has begun to address the issue of three person departments and he hopes it continues in future budgets.

D. Thomas stated that the higher international student tuition has always caused him concern, and he added that it could hamper the University's goal of attracting students from a wide variety of regions. R. Byrne responded that talks are ongoing with the provincial government on the issue of how international students are funded. He added that the scholarship program provides some support, but he suggested that this should be increased.

In his concluding remarks, the President cited the positive evolution over the past few years in how the community has responded to the budget and he thanked everyone for their input and their work on the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Berry
Secretary of Senate