

MINUTES
KSU Faculty Senate Committee on University Planning
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
Thursday, April 9, 3:30 pm
Union 205

Present: Behnke, Graham, Bloodgood, Hohn, Collins, Howe, Vontz, Crenshaw, McKinney, Wang, Lynn-Sherow

1. Chair Tom Vontz called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.
2. Vontz welcomed Provost Nellis, Associate Provost Dyer, Vice President Shubert, and Budget Director Bontrager to the meeting. Vontz explained that the meeting would focus on two purposes: 1) discussion of the budget questions sent to FSCOUP by Provost Nellis and 2) discussion of the DRAFT furlough policy sent to FSCOUP by Vice President Shubert.
3. Vice President Shubert gave a brief report and update on the budget situation. He explained the 40 million in stimulus funding for higher education in Kansas (split between the community colleges and universities) was allocated mostly for deferred maintenance and not tuition mitigation. He also explained that the budgets that were controlled by the central administration had been cut by 10%. Shubert also explained that many decisions were left to be made and that the final budget had NOT been decided. As one example, he pointed to the April 17 announcement of the latest Kansas revenue estimates. If these revenue estimates were adjusted down, other budgets, including KSU's might also need to be adjusted.
4. Senator Vontz explained that last week's discussion of the budget questions had raised more questions than answers. Vontz also reiterated that FSCOUP and the Faculty Senate were prepared to assist the administration in sharing information with Kansas representatives about the devastating effect such severe reductions would have on KSU and Kansas as a whole.
5. Provost Nellis thanked FSCOUP for their work on difficult issues in difficult times. Nellis suggested that we focus on the questions raised by the FSCOUP last week:
 - Are there decentralized aspects of the university that could be centralized for an appreciable cost savings? (This discussion flowed naturally from your questions relating to IT--but we thought there might be other areas as well?).
 - If courses or programs at KSU no longer serve a large populations of students or are no longer central to the mission of the university, who will make the decisions to cut programs or cancel classes and who will decide the criteria by which those decisions should be made?
 - What proactive measures might be taken by the faculty to work toward solving the budget problem? How might faculty, staff, and the entire KSU community work toward informing the legislature of the practical realities of such large budget reductions? We have KSU supporters and employees (e.g., County Extension, 4-H) in every county that might be mobilized to inform decision makers.
 - How would a furlough work in practice? What about faculty or staff whose salary is supported by grants? Would faculty be allowed to add the furlough days to the days they might be paid for consulting?
6. Senator Crenshaw raised concerns about the extent to which the best interests of the university were served using a decentralized system to make difficult budget decisions. Senator Lynn-Sherow encouraged the administration to provide more guidance in potential budget reduction strategies to the colleges and departments. Vontz pointed out that many of these issues would have supporters and opponents on all sides and that no matter the decision, some would be unhappy. Provost Nellis supported the idea that severe budget reductions would probably require a combination of centralized and decentralized strategies.
7. Senator Vontz asked if there were a current mechanism to cut or reduce programs and courses that no longer serve significant student populations or the mission of the university. Associate Provost Dyer explained that there were mechanisms in place and that each programs needed to meet minimum

requirements or they would be placed on probation. She said that there were five current programs on probation and there had many others in previous years. Dyer also explained that the Board of Regents maintained policies about under enrolled courses.

Vice President Shubert provided a statement on the DRAFT furlough policy and the need for one. Shubert handed out copies of a revised DRAFT that inserted that the President had the authority to make decisions “after consultation with both the Faculty Senate and Classified Senate.” Shubert also explained that this policy would be a part of the KSU Policy Manual, not the University Handbook.

9. Senator Vontz announced that Senator Condia had suggested that FSCOUP might need to consider a furlough policy of its own. Vontz supported this idea and encouraged members to consider our own possible policy as we worked on the DRAFT sent to us by Vice President Shubert.
10. Senators Wang, Lynn-Sherow, and Crenshaw raised concerns with the DRAFT policy. Senator Shubert suggested that FSCOUP work on suggesting changes and send him back a copy. The committee agreed.
11. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 7th at 3:30 in Union 205. TOPIC: Formal response to budget questions.