

MINUTES
KSU Faculty Senate Committee on University Planning
Thursday, December 4th 3:30 pm
K-State Union, Room 205

Present: Behnke, Bloodgood, Collins, Condia, Crenshaw, Graham, Hohn, Lynn-Sherow, Oberst, Pankl, Valdovinos, Vontz, Wang, and White

Guest: Associate Provost Ruth Dyer

1. Chair Tom Vontz called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.
2. November 6 minutes were approved as amended (spelling of Hohn's last name and addition of White to the members present list).
3. Vontz announced that Provost Nellis had asked FSCOUP to review his Budget Reduction Memo. Vontz welcomed Associate Provost Ruth Dyer who attended as a guest and to answer questions about the memo. A DRAFT of the Budget Reduction memo was distributed at the meeting.
4. Senator Lynn-Sherow announced that the Arts and Sciences Caucus had started deliberations about creative solutions to the budget problem at KSU and urged the involvement of faculty throughout the process. Several FSCOUP members agreed that collaborative and creative problem solving was especially important in times of financial hardship.
5. After lengthy discussion of the budget reduction memo, FSCOUP made several specific recommendations. Associate Provost Dyer offered to deliver these to the Provost after the meeting (the Memo was to be sent on 12/5/2008).
 - Senator Condia suggested the tone of the memo might be altered to convey increased collaboration and recognition of past efforts of faculty to reduce the budget. In particular, Senator Condia suggested changes to the opening paragraph.
 - Senator Lynn-Sherow asked how the committee interpreted the following clause: "research assignments not funded by grants or contracts should be carefully scrutinized to ensure potential productivity." After some discussion, members decided to suggest this clause be removed.
 - Senator Condia suggested changes to bullet #3 (maximizing collaboration and cooperation to increase efficiency) to recognize that faculty, staff, and administration are currently smart and work efficiently-- large cuts in the budget will likely reduce this capacity, not improve it.
 - Senator Lynn-Sherow suggested a change in the ordering of the first bullets of the guidelines. Members agreed these were positive changes.
 - Senator Vontz suggested that a bullet be added that any plans to reduce the budget should involve consultation with the faculty; the committee accepted this suggestion as well.
6. Chair Vontz thanked Associate Provost Dyer for coming to the meeting. Chair Vontz also expressed appreciation for providing FSCOUP with the opportunity to review the memo prior to its release.
7. Senator Condia suggested that we focus on FSCOUP's interpretation of Appendix B at our next meeting. He also suggested that perhaps a committee member could write a DRAFT prior to our next meeting. Senators Vontz and Condia volunteered for this assignment.
8. Next Meeting: Thursday, January 22 at 3:30 in Union 205. Topic: Appendix B.