

MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING

Thursday afternoon, May 2, 2013, union room 205 at 3:30 pm

Present: Barbara Anderson, Brad Burenheide, Karen Blakeslee, Lynn Carlin, Bob Condia (chair), Diana Farmer, Steven Graham, Drew Smith, Tom Vontz

Absent: John Devore, Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, Heather Reed, Eli Schooley, and Mark Weiss

Visitor: Cindy Bontrager, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance.

1. Bob Condia, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.
2. The April 4, 2013 minutes were approved as submitted.
3. Discussion with Cindy Bontrager on the Budget implication from the legislature and other issues of finance and money (40.0 minutes). Condia welcomed our interim VP for Administration and Finance to the meeting and went through introductions. Bontrager began by giving a brief overview of her interim position. She has mostly been in budget and finance and now has learned much more about facilities and planning. It has been an interesting process this year regarding state budget due to a variety of things including new members. Bontrager is hoping they can do some legislative education over the summer and really give detailed explanation about the benefits of K-State and how our monies are used. She spoke of the budget the state legislature would like to put through; indicating very aggressive cuts proposed. Bontrager noted that one proposal of a four percent overall cut would be essentially about a 7 million dollar reduction. She discussed how the state looks at vacant positions and how this could detrimentally affect K-State. It will most likely be passed that if a position has been vacant for a certain period of time and hasn't been filled, the funding for that position will be cut. That is the House's plan. The Senate has indicated cuts as well, with approximately 2 percent predicted. Bontrager spoke to what some of the governor's plans are. Bontrager discussed our University's governmental relations committee and their meetings. The hope is that the budget will come back to remain at a flat state rather than being cut. Anderson conveyed a reality of their college in that they keep a vacant line in order to hire adjuncts to teach their courses. If that line gets cut, they will not be able to function fully. It was discussed briefly how to address this issue for upcoming years. Conversation continued. Condia mentioned the meeting he, and other FSCOUP members, attended yesterday with classified senate and local legislators. He inquired what FSCOUP needs to be alert to regarding budget restrictions and their effects for the future year. Bontrager responded if there are budget cuts, there will be multiple opportunities for input and discussion of possible action to take.

For clarification, legislature will make their decision regarding the budget before the end of May. The board will place tuition proposals on their May 15-16 agenda for first reading if the budget is released. If the budget is delayed, the tuition first readings will not be done this month. They will not be reviewed until the budget is released. The tuition proposal from K-State will remain the same whether it goes forward this month or next.

The best news at this point would be that the budget is flat and not reduced. Realistically, we may have to deal with the two percent decrease, but all of that remains to be seen. It will depend on what priorities are set. Bontrager briefly discussed sustainability of programs for future years. In order to assist ourselves, data should be reviewed. There seems to be opportunity for some restructuring that would aid not only

departments, colleges, and the university as a whole. It was commented this could be a positive, not a negative. As in previous discussions regarding budget, again it was talked about how and what story needs to be told. Same information, but in a different package may be preferable.

Condia and all committee members present thanked Bontrager for coming and applauded her for her helpful, caring attitude.

4. Review University Club Survey – Esther Swilley

Condia reviewed with committee members the survey that went out. He directed attention to the results of the survey. Committee members discussed the results. There were a variety of comments. Anderson took a moment to sum up her impression of the results. It could be a possibility when the Union redesign begins, a functional place could be negotiated that would serve the existing need. Discussion ensued. Swilley observed that many commented a central location, like the Union or elsewhere, would be most preferred. Over 60% were in favor of the concept. There were several thoughtful, good comments conveyed in the survey. Condia spoke to the 2025 plan and how this idea was brought from there in that we need places to meet and discuss ideas with those from different disciplines. Anderson commented how having colleagues within different disciplines coming together was identified as crucial to implementation of the recommendations in the Sustainability Task Force report. Farmer also highlighted how some comments alluded to the fact people think this would be some formal kind of institution. Conversation continued regarding the survey and where to go from here. How would it or could it be marketed. Burenheide commented perhaps the culture needs to be in place first and then the place to bring people together could be introduced. Farmer commented it goes back to what has already been discussed; many wouldn't have time to participate; there are economic challenges, and so on. Perhaps as newer buildings get developed other avenues could be explored and pursued; kind of like how Radina's is in the Leadership Studies building. Committee members echoed how these have been a benefit to the university. In the end, the survey results have told us we need more little places like these to promote interaction between disciplines, such as Call Hall, JPs, Radina's, etc. There is still a need for a place to take candidates to or have drinks together (it was noted, with some humor, that Grain Science would be perfect).

5. Condia inquired whether FSCOUP should inform FS about the classified senate meeting with legislators and what went on. It was decided senators should be informed that it will be an up or down vote on the budget. You will either vote for the whole thing or against the whole thing. All agreed this is an awful situation.

6. 2025 Task Force for the Common Theme of Sustainability: Appointment of two members from FSCOUP (3 minutes or less)

Nominations: Diana Farmer and Drew Smith volunteered to participate in the task force as it begins to take shape in August.

7. New Business

a. Nominations and election of a FSCOUP Chair for 2013-14.

Barbara Anderson volunteered to serve as chair for the upcoming year. Nominations ceased. Anderson was elected unanimously to the role of chair.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 5, 2013 Union room 205 at 3:30 pm.