

MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING
Thursday, March 3, 2016; 2:00 pm
Union room 205

Present: Barbara Anderson, Lynn Carlin (Liaison for Provost Office), Stu Duncan, Gloria Holcombe, Byron Jones, Tim Keane, Laurel Littrell, Heather Reed, Dave Rintoul, Drew Smith, and Spencer Wood (Chair)

Absent: Tori Culbertson, Brad Burenheide, Andy Hurtig, and Mark Weiss

Guests/Visitors: Darwin “Ace” Abbott, Andy Bennett, Cindy Bontrager, and Fred Guzek

1. Spencer Wood, chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. The February 4, 2016 minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Old Business

A. Parking/Transportation system on campus

Guests: Cindy Bontrager & Ace Abbott

Ace Abbott, Director of Parking Services, showed committee members a brief PowerPoint presentation on parking and transit. The slides showed current and possible routes; cost comparisons between other universities regarding parking permits; transit fees, and the like. K-State does not have a transit fee at this time, though most other institutions do. Abbott informed members that the presentation is available online as well: <http://www.k-state.edu/parking/CampusTransportation.html>. Bontrager outlined that in the near future a work group, with members yet to be identified, will work to make decisions about large changes, such as whether there will be increased parking permit prices or zoned permit prices, along with many other issues. The Flint Hills Regional planning commission will be consulted as well. She would very much appreciate input and feedback from FSCOUP. Also, if anyone wishes to volunteer to serve on this workgroup, please let her know. K-State Today will have an announcement regarding this next week.

Discussion: It was commented that knowing where the bus stops are and having bus stop shelters is very important to success in using a transit system. Committee members also discussed truck deliveries to the library and other buildings on mid-campus drive. Due to the closure of the street for only pedestrian traffic this has required some changes to be made. There was conversation about delivery times, avoiding peak times during class changes, and being ADA compliant.

B. City/University Funds

Wood shared a booklet with committee members that was provided by the city regarding what projects they are looking into funding for the upcoming year. Holcombe indicated the city meeting will be coming up this month. Wood spoke to the process used this year. It will be used again for at least the next two years. He encouraged members to begin bringing forward ideas for next year's recommendations.

4. New Business

A. Budget

Many are aware of the budget cuts that have been announced recently by the state. On March 1st an announcement went out about a three percent callback by the Governor in state general funds. A three percent cut in state funds translates to an approximate 1.5% callback in University General Use funds. This callback was after an announcement went out about a two percent one time cut due to the university's tuition revenue shortfall caused by a cap on tuition rates, a drop in enrollment, and increased utility costs. These callbacks are all one-time for FY 2016. Strategy was discussed including the evident need of removing the tuition cap. However, there would need to be legislation presented in order to repeal that cap. Committee members inquired about what the role of FSCOUP is with the budget cuts. At this time the university is not in exigency, but difficult decisions will need to be made. Also, continuing to streamline and be efficient, as well as to create revenue for the University for the long term will be critical. As it stands, the university is still heavily decentralized. The academic deans have been involved in detailed discussions with the president, provost, and vice president Bontrager about possible ways to address this. Weighted metrics is one strategy currently under discussion by the deans. Concerns were raised about the use of metrics for making budget decisions due to inconsistencies in how metrics and data are tracked across colleges. It was stressed that NO decisions have been made yet. Once the deans complete their work on the model, it will be presented to the University Budget Advisory Committee.

There are multiple issues that have combined to create a perfect storm at an already bad time: tuition shortfall, the tuition cap, and energy costs related to new buildings coming on line, including the new chill plant. Furloughs were briefly talked about as a means of cost savings. Other revenue-generating ideas, such as creating energy and/or an academic building support Fee, were also mentioned. A list will be produced as to what can be done. It was questioned what the outcome will be if a department can't come up with the monies required

in this call back. Deans and vice presidents are responsible for how the call backs are implemented in their areas. Student retention was highlighted. This has always been important, but is even more so at this time. There are costs involved with this, which would need to be spent now, but the return on investment will be later. It is still important to consider these and other topics as we move forward. FSCOUP will be happy to provide input in whatever way is needed. It was commented that having a big-picture outlook is vital in order to succeed in a changing industry.

Bontrager reported that there will be a deans' budget retreat on Monday to discuss possible strategies about how a 2-4 percent reduction is going to be handled and its potential impact on their colleges or units.

Committee members discussed the next meeting and decided it would be a good idea to be updated again about the budget since that is the prime purpose why this committee was created.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 7; 2:00 pm; Union room 205