

Minutes

# Budget Committee

Friday, October 8, 2021

8:00-9:00 AM

Present: Alexandra Beard, Nancy Dietrich, Gerard Haddad, Andrea Hoagland, Tamara McDiarmid, Eva Menefee, Sally Pierce, Jon Ten Brink, Jean Ramirez, Kabeer Ahammad Sahib, Denise Warner

**Please Note:** This meeting was recorded. These minutes do not reflect every comment made or question asked. If anyone wants a copy of the recording, please let Denise know.

## Agenda:

1. September 24 meeting minutes were approved.
2. Q & A with Seleana Samuel, Senior VP of Business Operations

We expressed concerns about openness and the Senate being involved as decisions are being made. Seleana clarified that she has no supervisory role over the budget and how it is developed, but did comment that it is a “grass rootish” process, i.e. a look at the previous year’s spending; directors and deans reach out to faculty for assistance in developing the next budget. She doesn’t lead the budget process, but gives input to areas not under her direct responsibility.

Things that Seleana has been working on have sought faculty input: Equity Action Plan, Strategic Plan, and HESEE feedback surveys. She stressed importance of faculty involvement in strategic planning process and recommends that we have Academic Senate reps on project teams related to DEI and each area of the Strategic Plan (Engaged Learning and Student Success; Leadership, Culture, and Communication; Community Engagement; Competitiveness and Innovation; Resource Management and Fiscal Responsibility.) The best place for faculty to have a voice is in the work teams; everything we do at the college must be related to the Strategic Plan.

Because we have a relatively new leadership team, they are taking time to listen, trying to understand employee thoughts and perspectives. She values a culture of transparency, trust, and care, and listening. We are moving in a good direction because of these conversations. ELT is trying to be thoughtful and taking a people first approach. She wants to talk about things that may be difficult to talk about.

Committee expressed need for transparency in addition to the ability to give input before decisions are made. We would like explanations for why decisions are made; faculty might be more receptive if there were greater explanations.

Seleana thanked us for the invitation to the meeting and wants to continue to listen. Wants to focus on the future, and collaboration moving forward. She would like to come to future meetings.

1. Response Letter (Sally, Nancy, Gerry)

Sally revised the letter based on feedback from Jon and Denise.

1. Future Agenda Items

* Andrea want us to discuss what budget information to share with programs. What kind of budget information would be helpful to share with programs? Need to find balance between too many details that need explanation, and what people really need and want to know. Andrea wants to give something to programs that would be helpful in their planning.
* Nancy pointed out the need for this committee to have representatives on the Fiscal Responsibility team. Seleana emphasized need for more faculty on that team and need for our input on the CFI project. Currently, the only budget committee member is Joe.
* Finalize our response letter

Meeting adjourned at 8:57.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Denise Warner.