

Faculty Senate Finance and Planning Committee

Year-End Report – 4/26/18 Meeting

Committee Members: [Dr. Lissa Power-deFur](#), [Dr. Brett Hursey](#), [Dr. Xun Bian](#), [Professor Jeff Halliday](#) (Chair)

AAUP Budget & Planning Forum – Recap & Recording

The committee thanks Dr. Bill Abrams and Longwood's representatives of the Virginia Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) for hosting their annual spring forum, held on Feb. 20. Our committee assisted in co-sponsoring and planning the event, and recognizes President Reveley, Dr. Lara Ferguson and Mr. Ken Copeland for presenting and addressing questions. An estimated 84 people were in attendance and topics ranged from Academic Affairs budgeting, salary increases/compression, tuition revenue shortfall, spending of auxiliary reserves, Moody's bond issuer rating downgrading & many others. The forum lasted just over 90 minutes and was audio recorded, with a file submitted for Senate record & [hosted online publicly via SoundCloud](#).

Topic details, speakers addressing the topic, & the times for each are detailed below. Speakers are identified by initials: President Reveley (TR), Dr. Ferguson (LF) & Mr. Copeland (KC)

Welcome by Dr. Bill Abrams (00:00-1:11)

Introduction and budget process background from TR (1:12-7:32)

LF discussing academic departmental budgeting (7:33-15:30)

Question about unspent Academic Affairs monies – addressed by LF & TR (15:30-17:45)

Question about the process of funding Academic Affairs positions out of summer/intersession monies – addressed by LF (17:45-18:50)

Question about funding faculty travel from summer/intersession monies and other models of budgeting – addressed by LF (18:50-20:45)

Follow-up question about departmental budgets and reliance on summer/intersession monies – addressed by LF & TR (20:45-22:56)

Question regarding Academic Affairs summer revenue being utilized to balance the university's budget – addressed by KC, LF & TR (22:56-31:07)

Question about benefits packages and their impact on salary budgeting, with follow-up points on tuition shortfall this year and related adjustments – addressed by KC & TR (31:07-41:22)

Question about General Assembly and support for higher education – addressed by TR (41:22-45:24)

Question regarding salary compression – addressed by TR, KC & LF (45:24-49:37)

Follow-up concern on remaining competitive when hiring while simultaneously addressing salary compression – addressed by TR (49:37-50:35)

Question about funding of additional faculty positions during rollout of core curriculum – addressed by KC, LF & TR (50:35-55:16)

Question referring back to Academic Affairs summer revenue and balancing the university budget, focusing on the origin of that decision and budgeting across campus – addressed by TR & KC (55:16-1:00:28)

Question on auxiliary reserves spending & its correlation to Moody's downgrading the university's issuer rating – addressed by TR & KC (1:00:28-1:11:20)

Question regarding faculty morale related to departmental budgeting – addressed by TR (1:11:20-1:13:55)

Question regarding the current tuition model of charging per credit hour rather than a flat semester rate – addressed by TR & KC (1:13:55-1:19:05)

Follow-up question on whether a compromise/hybrid tuition model exists – addressed by TR (1:19:05-1:20:20)

Follow-up point on benefits of charging per credit hour (1:20:20-1:21:38)

Follow-up question on focusing on four-year graduation rates – addressed by TR (1:21:38-1:22:03)

Question on ratio of students on academic suspension and its impact on tuition/enrollment – addressed by TR & Vice President Victoria Kindon (1:22:03-1:25:48)

Concern regarding budget transparency, frequency of related communication & impact on faculty – addressed by TR (1:25:48-1:27:14)

Follow-up point on improving lines of communication between administration and faculty regarding budget decision-making processes – addressed by TR & LF, end of forum (1:27:14-1:30:37)

Our committee collected anonymous participant feedback immediately after the forum with 55 total respondents, 45 self-reported as faculty, 6 as staff, and 4 as administrative professionals.

The information was presented in an organized, balanced manner that left enough time for questions.

13 - Strongly Agree	37 - Agree	4 - Undecided	1 - Disagree
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The forum provided me with a more clear understanding of the university's finances.

10 - Strongly Agree	28 - Agree	11 - Undecided	5 - Disagree
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My own concerns &/or questions regarding budgeting and finances were directly addressed.

9 - Strongly Agree	17 - Agree	18 - Undecided	5 - Disagree
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I would attend a forum like this in the future & would also recommend it to colleagues.

26 - Strongly Agree	23 - Agree	2 - Undecided	1 - Disagree
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Qualitative responses were also collected regarding broad suggestions for these forums and specific budget topics to address. Our committee will use these to direct future programming. We invite faculty to continue to share concerns, recommendations and questions.

Updated Admissions Figures

Acknowledging the fall semester deposit deadline for first-year students is May 1, this report's listed numbers are as of Thursday, 4/12, and provided by Vice President Kindon. Applications for fall 2018 enrollment totaled 6,360, up from last year (6,065 reported on 4/27/17) and, for context, 50 percent higher than in 2013 (4,222). Administration reports 626 deposits for the first-year class, with a target of 1,150 by May 10 and an expectation for a class size of 1,090 by the first day of classes in August. Vice President Kindon stated she would be happy to provide Senate with updated figures after mailed deposits have been counted.

University Planning Council – Finance Subcommittee & UPC Meeting Takeaways

Our Senate committee works in conjunction with the [University Planning Council](#) (UPC), with each of us additionally serving as members of the UPC's Finance Subcommittee. The subcommittee met on Monday, April 9 & the UPC as a whole met on Thursday, April 12. The following are some key takeaways from these meetings related to the Finance Subcommittee.

During 4/9 subcommittee meeting:

- Dr. Power-deFur asked if Academic Affairs was considering a new budgeting strategy to better serve academic departments, Dr. Ferguson said budgeting for fiscal year 2019 was already largely complete, but stated funding departmental budgets by increasing the amount of front-end loaded monies through predicting intersession revenue, thereby providing more funding at the beginning of the academic year, was a priority for fiscal year 2020.
- President Reveley and Mr. Copeland stated they expected the General Assembly to approve funding for the upcoming fiscal year for Longwood with numbers comparable to the current year, likely with a slight increase. They also stated they were unsure if the General Assembly would again vote for a mandatory salary increase for all higher education institutions.
- Dr. Ferguson discussed funding of all Civitae-driven initiatives, noting all added positions have been fully funded and identified as priorities by the Board of Visitors. There are three new positions for fiscal year 2019, with two already hired, and an additional three positions to be added for fiscal year 2020.
- President Reveley and Mr. Copeland discussed plans to work with Human Resources during the next fiscal year to proactively identify current and future issues related to salary compensation and compression within academic departments. For context and convenience, the 2018 [Longwood AAUP Annual Salary Survey is linked here](#).

- Following up on points discussed during the AAUP Budget Forum of 2/20, President Reveley and Dr. Ferguson stated they planned to more closely examine models of tuition (by credit hour or by semester) during the upcoming academic year.

During 4/12 UPC meeting:

- President Reveley stated philanthropic gifts totaled around \$8 million with more expected before the end of the academic year. Mr. Copeland and President Reveley discussed focusing on working with and training department chairs and administrative assistants in an effort to better communicate just how these monies can be distributed.
- President Reveley provided updated Admissions numbers while also briefly recognizing the impact of decreased community college enrollment across the state.
- President Reveley briefly discussed ongoing and future construction projects, while stating feasibility studies were planned to explore the possible addition of a performance hall, as well as a convocation center, on campus.

The next UPC meeting will be held in October.

Links to This Year's Reports

The Finance & Planning Committee submitted formal reports to Senate on [September 7](#), [October 12](#), [November 30](#) & April 26, additionally presenting information on [November 2](#) & [February 1](#).