

Finance and Planning Report to Faculty Senate
March 12, 2015

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Chair, Faculty Senate Committee on Finance and Planning

Budget Update from Emily O’Brion

The General Assembly completed its work on Friday, February 27th, after adopting an amended budget for 2014-16. Longwood is set to receive about \$560,000 in FY16 to restore budget cuts, support in-state undergraduate enrollment growth and implement faculty salary increases under the budget plan approved by the General Assembly. Longwood fares very well on the capital side as well; the budget the Governor introduced in December authorized \$11 million in bond funds to complete the University Center project. The budget amendments approved by the General Assembly provide a supplement to complete the purchase and installation of Longwood’s Biomass Boiler – one of only a small number of projects funded in the budget. In addition, Longwood is authorized to proceed to detailed planning for two other important capital projects: the Admissions Office and the New Academic Building.

While this is certainly good news, it is important to keep in mind that Longwood’s general fund appropriation for E&G programs in the amended budget is just .1% over the FY16 budget that the General Assembly originally adopted in 2014 prior to the implementation of the budget cuts last fall, according to SCHEV’s calculations.

The Governor is now reviewing the changes the General Assembly made to the introduced budget. The General Assembly will reconvene on April 15th to vote on items that the Governor has amended or vetoed.

UPC Update

UPC met in January. President Reveley would like us to explore the possibility of expanding the current University Planning Council into the UPC 2.0 for other issues that could be brought under the “umbrella” of the UPC. The extension of the current committee would be developed to discuss and review other issues that the university faces including budget, diversity, space planning, just to name a few. The current council would remain as a standing body to address issues university-wide. A subset group consisting of Ken Copeland, Charles White, Dick Bratcher, Troy Austin, Jennifer Apperson, Jo Morrison, and Matt McGregor will meet with President Reveley two to three times and report back to the University Planning Council to detail what the new UPC 2.0 model would look like.

Budget Forum

A university wide budget forum has been scheduled for April 2 at 3:30 in Chichester G12. Please attend and encourage your colleagues to do so as well.

Finance and Planning Committee

Members of the finance and planning committee have asked Department Chairs to give us a few minutes at upcoming department meetings to seek faculty comments or concerns regarding finance and planning issues. We will collect our results to form a report for both the UPC and Senate to help ensure faculty needs remain at the forefront of the institution's strategic initiatives. Faculty salaries remain our first priority and we are keeping that issue at the forefront of every discussion with UPC. We feel that the university has continued to commit to those much-needed increases. In addition to that issue, we would like your feedback if you have concerns about other budget issues such as:

- Concerns of transparency
- Types of budgets
- Departmental budgets
- Administrative oversight
- Reporting structure
- Operational budget understanding

We will report back once we have summarized our findings from those meetings.