

Faculty Senate – 9/15/16

Finance and Planning Committee Report

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

Debate Preparation

University administration states the cost of hosting the debate remains as it was reported last semester, peaking at \$5 million. This figure does not include previously approved master plan capital projects whose timetables were essentially pushed up ahead of the debate, such as the northern/brick entrance on High Street.

Enrollment

As discussed during the president's welcome on August 17, freshmen enrollment numbers declined this year. President Reveley reported a class of 975 on 8/17, but that number moved to 950 after add/drop on 8/29, as [reported by *The Rotunda*](#). That number is down 103 students from last fall's enrollment of 1,053. University officials said other universities across the state saw a similar dip, dating back to the spring semester as student deposits finished down seven percent. It was reported the university's annual budget was not negatively impacted because tuition revenue forecasting is based on credit-hour production and not head count.

Commonwealth & Compensation

The Commonwealth's budget shortfall of \$266 million was widely reported in July and, on August 26, Governor McAuliffe confirmed the shortfall would impact pay increases for state employees. However, as President Reveley has communicated on several occasions, despite the lack of state funding support, the university went ahead with merit-based increases for instructional, administrative and professional faculty, taking salary compression into account, beginning with paychecks on September 1. Classified staff received a bonus of one percent of their salary on September 1. Administration reports funded wage employees will also receive a bonus.

University Planning Council Update

The senate committee works in conjunction with the University Planning Council (UPC). As a reminder, under the UPC's new charter adopted this past January, the chair of this committee serves as co-chair for the UPC. In addition, all senate finance and planning committee members also serve on the UPC's Finance Subcommittee.

Over the summer, the UPC Finance Subcommittee met twice, first on May 31 and again as part of a UPC budget retreat on July 13. These were primarily educational in nature, meant to help all parties understand the overall university budget, its connection to the Commonwealth and to begin to examine areas of concern. In time, the subcommittee can then provide feedback and/or make recommendations to the council. Another subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 27. The UPC is slated to meet again as a whole in October; the date/time of that meeting is yet to be announced.

Board of Visitors

This past weekend, the Board of Visitors discussed finance-related matters including debate costs and the drop in freshman enrollment. Dr. Lissa Power-deFur, who serves on our committee and as Faculty Representative to the board, has kindly offered to briefly discuss these issues in Senate as part of this report.