

Senate Finance and Planning Committee Report

Faculty Senate Meeting – 3/2/17

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

Commonwealth Update

Many of you likely read or heard about the General Assembly's [recent approval of a state budget](#) that included monies allocated for pay raises for faculty and staff at public institutions of higher education. For clarity, our committee requested information on how this would impact Longwood. As a reminder, while faculty are paid over a 12-month period, the upcoming faculty contract goes from August 10 to May 9, so the increase can potentially begin with the new contract year, as that budget goes into effect on July 10. The General Assembly's specific provisions provide Longwood with the money for a **two percent salary** increase for *faculty and administrative/professional staff*. The university can determine how to distribute those monies and in our immediate history, the administration divvied out that money based on merit, while also working to account for salary compression. The university administration is currently seeking guidance from the state as they decide how to disburse those additional funds, but if we stay true to form, we will repeat a merit-based approach for this coming year. It's important to note the General Assembly's allocation will provide *all Longwood classified employees* with a direct, three percent increase.

Finance/Budget Forum

In conjunction with Dr. Bill Abrams and Longwood's representatives of the Virginia Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), and Vice President for Administration and Finance Ken Copeland, our committee will assist in hosting a public Finance/Budget Forum for the campus community on **Tuesday, March 28 from 3:30-5 p.m. in Hull 132**.

This forum is an important opportunity for faculty, staff and students to learn more about the university's budgeting process, while also directly addressing questions and concerns. Please share this information with your department and encourage all to participate.

Our committee will also meet in the near future to discuss [matters detailed in our February report](#). We will then communicate back and encourage the administration to directly address those issues during the forum. We ask Senators to direct any additional questions, concerns and/or suggestions to any member of the committee.

University Planning Council

Our Senate committee works in conjunction with the [University Planning Council](#) (UPC), with each member serving a dual role as a member of the UPC's Budget and Planning Committee. The entire UPC is *tentatively* set to next meet on Thursday, April 13 from 3:30-5 p.m. in Blackwell. If you have a concern you feel the Budget and Planning Committee or UPC should address regarding finance and related planning, please contact any member of the committee. As a reminder, UPC meetings are open to the entire university community.