

Faculty Senate Finance and Planning Committee

Faculty Senate – 10/12/17

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

Response to Senate Question Regarding Dr. Neff's Presentation on Summer School Revenue

During the discussion of Academic Affairs budgeting in the Sept. 7 Senate meeting, Dr. Waller requested the committee seek additional information from administration regarding a number presented by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Joan Neff. When showing Summer Session Tuition Revenue for the 2018 Fiscal Year, a total of \$800,000 was listed as being removed by the University Budget Office. Dr. Neff stated this is an established practice, that the amount removed has increased over recent years, and that this figure was not a percentage of the summer session revenue, meaning the amount was consistent with previous budgets, despite a drop in earned revenue from this past summer.

The Senate Finance Committee members met with Dr. Neff and Vice President for Administration and Finance Ken Copeland for clarification on this issue, as well as to plan this semester's Budget & Finance Forum. Mr. Copeland stated the monies removed from summer session tuition revenue assist the University Budget Office in balancing the overall, macro budget for the university. He further clarified some of those monies are utilized for academic salaries funded annually from that revenue. Mr. Copeland stated one of his budgeting priorities is to work with Dr. Neff and Academic Affairs in an effort to move the funding for those positions into the traditional Academic Affairs budget. Mr. Copeland added a further priority of his is to research other budgeting options, recognizing that lean years in summer revenue put an additional burden on Academic Affairs and, consequently, on departmental budgeting. Mr. Copeland additionally stated he has spoken to peer institution counterparts regarding their models, and found many similarities.

Fall Budget & Finance Forum

The Faculty Senate Finance & Planning Committee will be hosting a **Budget & Finance Forum on Monday, Oct. 30, 3:30 p.m. in the Blackwell Ballroom**. We have requested audio recording of the event to benefit those not in attendance. The forum will focus on Academic Affairs Budgeting with Dr. Neff and Mr. Copeland opening with brief presentations, followed by a moderated question-and-answer session. The committee recognizes and appreciates Dr. Neff's and Mr. Copeland's participation in the upcoming forum, and their assistance in its planning.

The committee's goals for the forum include a review of university options regarding academic budgeting, understanding administration's plans for the upcoming academic year, and addressing staff/faculty concern. Similar to this past spring's forum, which was co-sponsored by Dr. Bill Abrams and Longwood's representatives of the Virginia Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and Mr. Copeland, our committee will collect participant feedback immediately after the forum and will use the results and recommendations to guide future event content and organization.

University Planning Council – Finance Subcommittee Meeting Recap

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. That subcommittee met on Monday, Oct. 2. Some takeaways from the meeting include:

- In his Commonwealth Update, Mr. Copeland stated he feels the General Assembly's approach to higher education is more stable than last year, but noted the complexities associated with the upcoming gubernatorial election. He also called attention to the three capital projects awarded by the General Assembly last year and outlined current requests related to the university's six-year plan.
- President Reveley discussed how governor administration turnover impacts the politics of higher education in Virginia and that, as a result, budget prediction is difficult at best, but added he doesn't expect much change in state funding allocation. President Reveley emphasized enrollment and

retention will continue to be the driving factors for university revenue.

- President Reveley and Mr. Copeland discussed a [new state statute](#) requiring public universities and colleges to notify the public *30 days before* a proposed tuition or student fee increase is voted on. In recent years, the university announced tuition increases in [May 2017](#), [April 2016](#) & [late March 2015](#).
- Mr. Copeland stated the budget office is researching potentially switching to a new budget-forecasting model that administration feels would benefit the university while simultaneously better identifying key performance indicators.
- President Reveley discussed how university scholarship disbursement, previously conducted by the Longwood Foundation, would be moving to the Accounts Payable office. Staff will be added to the Accounts Payable office to accommodate the shift, and the university will work to utilize the AcademicWorks portal site as a way to track scholarship data, eventually opening up a searchable, user-friendly database.

University Planning Council

The entire UPC will meet on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 3:30 p.m., location TBA. During the Finance Subcommittee meeting detailed above, President Reveley stated the Oct. 19 UPC meeting will include a discussion of the Longwood Foundation's scholarship awarding efforts, roughly \$1.5 million annually, while detailing the changes in Accounts Payable. Tentative dates of January 18 and April 12 are being held for the year's remaining UPC meetings. Please remember these meetings are open for all to attend.