

Budget Committee, September 10, 2025

Minutes

Attendance

Members: David Agard, Junko Agnew, Janel Bloch, Kimberly Clayton-Code, Susannah Coaston, Nathan De Lee, , John Farrar, Chad Greenfield, Jack Harrison, Zach Hart, Merle Heckman, Lynnis Hillman, Alicia Ireton, Edward Kwon, Marc Leone, Cecile Marczinski, Gary Newell, Nikk Pilato, Patrick Schultheis, , Karen Tapp, Paul Tenkotte, Annie Welch, Zach Wells

Guests: Chris Calvert, Diana McGill, Alar Lipping, Steve Slone, Chad Ogle, Vicki Cooper, Jamie Younger.

Chair Janel Bloch called the meeting to order, and the agenda was adopted with no changes. The minutes from the May 7, 2025 meeting were adopted as distributed.

The Chair gave her report reminding members of the materials on the Canvas site, where the meeting dates for this academic year have been posted. Meetings will be mostly online. The Canvas site also has reference data such as a link to the salary repository and historic budget surveys. The current budget survey is also posted on the Faculty Senate webpage. This is a biennial budget year in Frankfort, so it will be an active year.

Committee members and guests briefly introduced themselves, and members were solicited for questions or topics for discussion in the committee this year.

Questions: How does the budget process work? How can faculty understand it? There was a question about the loss of faculty members, particularly full-time tenure track faculty members. A request for data (an ongoing, annual request) for the breakdown of personnel expenses and tracking year over year and related questions were presented to VPFA/CFO Chris Calvert. Raises, compression, and equity are a concern for salaries. Members also raised questions about enrollment trends/details and their effect on the budget, about the funding for Faculty Development Awards, technology replacement, especially the disparate impact in SCA in COI, and the impact of construction on students and faculty.

CFO Chris Calvert gave a updates on the effect of decreased enrollment on the budget. Based on invoices, NKU is down in traditional undergraduate, traditional graduate, and law, year over year. The total is a little over 1%. We are down in the students who generate the most margin. It's still early in the semester, but the budget impact could be \$1M to \$2M (though difficult to predict). There was positive cash flow in FY25 for the first time since FY20. We are up around \$3M year over year but remain below what was budgeted.

There was a question about liquidated damages related to the Fine Arts Center renovation—penalties for missing construction or renovation deadlines. These damages are mitigated by change orders and additions due to undiscovered issues with the building. It won't be a major amount.

From the parking and tuition taskforce, a proposal for a new parking fee structure, based on salary, is coming soon. Some tuition waiver changes have already been implemented.

Members were encouraged to look at the policy website to comment on policy proposals. Members should also consider the faculty budget survey for key issues for this committee.

The meeting was adjourned by the chair.