

MINUTES OF BUDGET COMMITTEE OF FACULTY SENATE  
1 DECEMBER 2008

Attending: Seyed Allameh, Paul Cooper, Steve Crites, Adele Dean, Emily Detmer-Goebel, Ken Engebretson, Gary Hackbarth, Clinton Hewan, Jon Gresham, Gretchen Kauscher, Barbara Klaw, Doug Krull, Andrea Lambert, Aron Levin, Julie Mader-Meersman, John Metz, Carl Miller (chair), Catherine Neal, Judy Voelker, Jeff Ward, Rob Zai

Guests: Andy Meeks, Ken Ramey, Mary Ryan

Absent: Hazel Barton, Heather Bullen, Rich Gilson (sabbatical)

Carl Miller opened the meeting at 3:02.

The November minutes were approved as written.

Because the usual room was unavailable, the meeting took place in Steely Library 240.

Ken Ramey and Andy Meeks visited to discuss parking and construction. The information that they provided included the following.

Parking fees: Because the budget of NKU has been cut, parking fees are needed to raise revenue. It was decided by the administration that fees should be sufficient to pay for parking expenses, including debt on garages and maintenance of garages and surface lots.

More sophisticated gates could replace student monitors, but such gates are very expensive. Bridges over roads are also expensive and might not be used.

Convenience to buildings: It is difficult to maximize convenience for all because many constituencies (e.g., faculty, staff, students, patrons of events) want to park close to their destinations. However, there is a form on the parking website for special events/needs (e.g., people carrying musical instruments).

Visitors: Visitors to campus pay a fee to park, but this can be billed to a department. It was noted that it would reflect better on NKU if passes could be issued in advance. Andy indicated that he would check into this possibility.

Handicapped parking: There is adequate handicapped parking on campus. Visitors with disabilities can park in any handicapped space.

Bank of Kentucky Center: NKU receives all fees from Bank of Kentucky Center events (except when prohibited by the promoter). Fees are \$2 per ticket.

We have learned how to better manage parking and traffic congestion for events.

It was noted that it might be helpful to inform the university community about the back way to the AA highway via Johns Hill Road; this might reduce congestion on 3 Mile Road.

Safety: It was noted that there are some safety issues near lot J. Perhaps steps that go up the hill from the lower parking level could be built, sidewalks could be made to line up, and pedestrian crossings could be added.

Suggestions about parking: Ken and Andy noted that perhaps faculty should have been consulted more in decisions about parking; they indicated that they are open to suggestions.

Informatics: The building location is planned for lot B. Ground breaking is expected late in the first quarter of 2009. The state has contributed \$35.5 million, but the cost is estimated to be \$40-41 million. Thus, private funds are needed to build as well as for furniture, fixtures, and equipment.

Master Plan/Other Construction: Ken encouraged us to view the master plan (available on the campus planning website). NKU is 30% underbuilt compared to similar KY institutions. In particular, much more recreational space is needed. The city of Highland Heights has agreed to help us build a soccer complex.

The Heath Innovations Center continues to be the #1 new construction priority. Founder's Hall is the #1 renovation priority. However, with an additional 4% budget cut expected, it may be some time before these priorities can be realized.

Plots have been identified for a faith village (in which different faith groups could build/lease).

The Covington campus needs renovation. Costs would be too much, so this campus will be closed and space rented from Gateway.

Thriftway and the Hermann center have been removed and there are plans to build a hotel, office space, and restaurants.

Efficiency: Over the Thanksgiving break some lots were closed; this did not seem to cause problems and saved \$1000 per garage.

Faculty can help to conserve by taking space heaters and small refrigerators home over the semester break; these have substantial energy costs.

Carl encouraged us to think of ideas. Suggestions can be sent to John Metz (who is on President Votruba's committee on efficiency).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16.