

MINUTES OF BUDGET COMMITTEE OF FACULTY SENATE
31 AUGUST 2009

Attending: Seyed Allameh, Bethany Bowling, Jim Bradtmueller, Steve Crites, Adele Dean, Emily Detmer-Goebel, Gary Eippert, Ken Engebretson (chair), Jayce Farmer, Jane Green, Gary Hackbarth, Gretchen Kauscher, BJ Kosak, Doug Krull, Tom Leech, Marc Leone, John Metz, Catherine Neal, Michael Providenti, Judy Voelker, Jeff Ward

Guests: Mary Ryan

Absent: Rich Gilson, Lisa MacQueen, Carl Miller, Denis Mueller, Stefan Paula, Duke Thompson

Ken Engebretson opened the meeting at 3:03.

The April minutes were approved as written.

Ken noted that the remaining meeting dates (October 12, November 9, November 23, Spring dates might change) are posted: http://facultysenate.nku.edu/docs/2009-2010_Committee_Schedules.pdf

Ken noted that he would distribute the minutes by email and suggested that we could, in general, be greener.

1. General Education

Alar Lipping, the faculty senate president, has requested that we examine the general education proposals for budgetary issues. For example, a capstone course would require additional resources. However, it was noted that Provost Wells has indicated that there are funds available for GenEd. It was suggested that we could specify how much financial support would be necessary for different proposals. Perhaps we could discuss this further after we see the next phase.

2. Budget Committee By-Laws

The executive committee suggested that the by-laws of committees need to be examined; do they need updating or other revisions? Ken agreed to make the by-laws available. (The by-laws are posted on the Budget Committee website: <http://facultysenate.nku.edu/committees/budget.php>.) Ken suggested that we could discuss this as a group or assign the task to a subcommittee. It was decided that we would discuss as a group, with the option of assigning the task to a subcommittee later.

3. Faculty Salary

With regard to summer salary, the current policy is that the cap for summer salary is 3% per credit hour (maximum 6 credits, using a maximum salary of \$65,000). The Provost has granted exceptions to the 6 credit limit. It was suggested that we should revisit the policy about under enrolled courses (currently one can teach for a percentage of what one would have earned), perhaps comparing with other universities.

With regard to overall salaries, we are below CUPA and there are compression issues. Moreover, the last data available on NKU salaries are from 2004-2005 (posted on the budget website). More current information is needed. Ken noted that, rather than distributing this information, national data on CUPA could be posted on the budget website. Ken noted that it would be good for us to discuss this with our departments.

4. Parking

It was noted that now one uses the parking pass, rather than one's all card, to enter parking garages. Andy Meeks requested meeting with our committee (perhaps the November 9 meeting). It was noted that visitors still need easier access to campus. In addition, it was noted that we could request financial information on parking and/or request that a member of the budget committee sit on the parking committee.

5. University Efficiency

How can we reduce costs? Sometimes we receive information on paper when it could have been sent electronically. Some thought that the mynku kits were not a wise use of money. Perhaps food service costs could be reduced (e.g., expensive food at faculty functions).

6. New Business

There was discussion of the budget priorities survey and how to prepare it more efficiently. Because many items are important, should we highlight a few? Ken noted that some work could be done over email. Ken indicated that this could be the third agenda item for the October 12 meeting (behind GenEd and Alar's discussion of CUPA).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14.