

MINUTES OF BUDGET COMMITTEE OF FACULTY SENATE
2 MARCH 2009

Attending: Seyed Allameh, Hazel Barton, Steve Crites, Adele Dean, Emily Detmer-Goebel, Ken Engebretson, Rich Gilson, Clinton Hewan, Gretchen Kauscher, Barbara Klaw, Doug Krull, Aron Levin, John Metz, Carl Miller (chair), Jeff Ward

Guests: Ken Kline, Any Meeks, Mary Ryan

Absent: Heather Bullen, Paul Cooper, Gary Hackbarth, Jon Gresham, Andrea Lambert, Julie Mader-Meersman, Catherine Neal, Judy Voelker, Rob Zai

Carl Miller opened the meeting at 3:04.

The February minutes were approved as written. However, it should be noted that Provost Wells indicated (at the faculty senate meeting and at a subsequent meeting) that the fee associated with international hiring is being eliminated.

Parking

Ken Kline and Andy Meeks came to speak with us about fees and parking.

Ken noted that there are regulations about fees (e.g., fees can be charged for courses, but these cannot be used to make a profit). Few fees create revenue centrally because the units that propose the fees usually retain them. Mandatory fees (required for all students) are regulated by the state. Room rental fees depend on the event; however, deans and some other administrators can waive room rental fees.

Andy noted that parking is now (as of 2008-2009) an auxiliary service (that is, they receive no support from the NKU budget or from the state, so all expenses must be covered by parking permit fees, tickets, special events, etc.). They are responsible for maintenance (asphalt, striping, potholes, sealing) and debt service of 2.2 million dollars. Some other universities also operate this way, but there is variability.

Budget committee members put forth a number of questions and issues, including the following.

Why did parking fees increase so dramatically prior to parking becoming an auxiliary service? Andy responded that the building of parking decks (garages) is probably primarily responsible. He noted that one space in a parking deck costs approximately \$18,000, whereas one space in a surface lot costs approximately \$2500. In the early 2000s, parking was highly subsidized by the general University fund. There has been a moving away from this practice, and along with the parking deck expenses, this has led to dramatic increases in parking fees for faculty/staff (from \$96 in 2002 to \$290 in 2008, for example).

It was asked why the burden for parking should be placed on faculty. Andy responded that he is not the best person to respond.

Could parking fees for events be increased as a greater source of revenue? Andy indicated that the budget committee could forward a proposal. However, Andy noted that parking fees must be negotiated for each event and so parking cannot easily be increased across the board.

Currently parking fees for the Bank of Kentucky Center go into the fund for that building (not the general parking fund), but Andy noted that this is discussed annually. There is no debt service on the Bank of Kentucky Center, but there are significant maintenance expenses.

Parking fees for events are part of the ticket price (as a result, one might argue that people who have already purchased a parking permit are paying twice). There might be some reconsideration of this policy, however any changes may incur much higher expenses in staffing and hence offset any perceived savings for faculty/staff.

Safety concerns were raised; it was also noted that signs and crosswalks are still needed by AST. It appeared that Andy would look into this problem.

Given the substantial increases in parking fees that we have seen recently, what are the plans to control costs in future years? Andy did not anticipate dramatic increases given the adjustments we have already made. However, costs could go up well beyond inflation if we have to build another deck.

Andy noted that Ken Ramey has been considering remote parking (at a reduced cost). A shuttle would bring people to campus. This would not be mandatory, but would provide an option for those willing to trade some convenience for lower fees. However, it was suggested that this might not be cost effective. The size of the remote parking lot will be a great factor in whether this would lead to realized savings.

Is it possible to get more bus service and build in incentives (e.g., If I ride the bus frequently then I get a break on parking fees)? Andy indicated that all proposals can be considered and suggested relaying ideas to him as we have them.

Is it possible to arrange visitor passes for visiting speakers and service personnel? Yes. Andy suggested that they will discuss the details later, perhaps including discussions with chairs and deans, to make it equitable to all campus constituencies. Carl suggested that a subcommittee including Hazel Barton, Ken Engebretson, and Barbara Klaw be formed to generate ideas. Andy agreed to having discussions with this subgroup.

Scott Lang's proposal (where fees would be a percentage of salary) is being sent to the senate for a vote. Carl noted that our committee should forward our position to the senate.

Do evening students need a permit? Yes, and cars are currently being ticketed until 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19.