

MINUTES OF BUDGET COMMITTEE OF FACULTY SENATE  
10 NOVEMBER 2008

Attending: Seyed Allameh, Heather Bullen, Paul Cooper, Steve Crites, Adele Dean, Emily Detmer-Goebel, Gary Hackbarth, Gretchen Kauscher, Aron Levin, Julie Mader-Meersman, John Metz, Carl Miller (chair), Judy Voelker, Jeff Ward

Guests: Mary Ryan

Absent: Hazel Barton, Ken Engebretson, Rich Gilson (sabbatical), Jane Green, Jon Gresham, Clinton Hewan, Barbara Klaw, Doug Krull, Andrea Lambert, Catherine Neal, Rob Zai

Minutes from the October meeting were approved.

A discussion of the Faculty Budget Priorities Survey lasted for about 40 minutes. Items discussed included:

Carl Miller explained the ranking system briefly. It was noted that a recalculation is underway where “No Opinion” is not part of the ranking. A few departments were not included and will be added to the final report. The budget priorities will be passed along at the next Senate meeting. A final copy will be distributed to all members of the Budget Committee.

It was suggested that we go back and match responses with prior years of budget priorities. Carl Miller said that he would look into old surveys, possibly asking the Senate for prior years data.

It was suggested that we look at questions that have been listed for 4-5 years in a row—do we remove them and simply address them in a cover memo that accompanies the priority listing? This is something to consider for next year’s survey preparation. These important items will not disappear, but rather may be highlighted in the cover letter instead of being included in the survey.

It was suggested that we conduct the survey electronically next year, which might improve the response rate.

It was suggested that more feedback be provided on the budget priorities each year. The Budget committee could give this feedback to faculty. The administration, such as the Provost or Budget Office could coordinate the feedback on this year’s approved priorities. The Budget priorities should be shared with all VP’s for consideration during the current budget year, since they all have various items in the priorities listing. Without some feedback, it becomes difficult for faculty to respond without knowing what impact they may have had on any given item. Faculty also want to see that their opinions matter, and this can be accomplished by opening this channel of communication. We should also be able to obtain feedback on last year’s budget priorities items.

Carl Miller stated that in the Spring, he was hoping that we could get some information for the Budget Committee on Faculty salaries and benefits. Where does NKU stand? Possible Items to consider:

Parking fees

Other benefits (health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, access to facilities to promote wellness)

How do we compare our health benefits with other institutions?

How many people have enrolled in the different health plans?

Carl stated that he came to NKU not necessarily for the salary alone, but the overall benefits package, including TIAA contributions. It would be helpful to evaluate where NKU stands with other state and peer institutions in providing overall salaries and benefits package. This is a retention issue for recruited faculty members at NKU.

Ken Ramey and Andy Meeks will be coming to the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in SL 240. Send questions for Ken and Andy to Carl Miller by November 24. He will forward these so Ken and Andy can respond to questions.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.