

## Budget Advisory Committee Meeting

1:30 p.m., 12/8/09

- The minutes of the BAC meeting on 11/17/09 were approved. They may now be shared with others outside the committee as necessary.
- Review/updates on current (FY10) budget
  - Cash flow has improved; we are still not using the line of credit.
  - The stimulus money has not yet been received, but it should be here soon (the paperwork has been submitted).
    - § Capital improvements may be made with this stimulus money, but there is a very short time frame in which to work. The President has asked for a list of requested projects. Requests should be made to supervisors, who will pass them on up the chain to the President.
  - The old Common Fund has been replaced with a local investment account. The change is reflected on the cash flow spreadsheet.
- Student Receivables continue to improve. \$971,000 is still outstanding from the current semester, but a large amount of this could still be collected over the next few weeks due to payment plans, etc.
- State Budget Cut – article in the Echo was briefly discussed. All areas of the University had to cut approximately 1.2% from their budgets. Departments worked with their VP's/Provost to come up with where the cuts would be made.
- IT's budget needs were discussed – they need a recurring replacement budget built into the annual budget in order to replace equipment and infrastructure on a scheduled basis.
  - There was a request that detailed IT and AOEP budget information be provided in the future.
- There was follow-up discussion on the ideas that were introduced at the last meeting: charging students a deposit on their next semester's charges upon registration, and reinstating fees to drop classes.
  - Several departments have been in favor of it; however, it could create a significant problem for students who rely completely on financial aid. These

students may not be able to come up with anything out of pocket to pay a deposit for registering.

- Reinstating the drop fee may be a better option, but there are problems with that, too—students who are not properly advised, etc.
- It was discussed that this issue might be better addressed by a different committee/group. However, models from other schools that do not charge a deposit will be studied to see what it is they're doing to keep their registration/payments running smoothly. Data from the registrar will also be gathered to see how much revenue could potentially be generated by reinstating the drop fees.
- Cuts in next year's scholarships were discussed. Of the \$1.5 million worth of scholarships that will be cut, \$580,000 will be from Honors College. There was discussion about whether Honors College should continue to offer only full-ride scholarships or create a tiered system to offer some partial scholarships and, thereby, maintain a larger student body in Honors College. The impact of the scholarship structure on success in recruiting individual students to the Honors College was discussed.
  - It was noted that there will have to be even more cuts in scholarship spending than just this over the next couple of academic years in order to be in compliance with the new laws.
- The article about the budget process at Willamette University was discussed. They use a system in which they create a budget on 3 "levels," so that if cuts have to be made, they already have a next-level-down budget in place.
  - It was mentioned that right now all UCA has to work with is "bare bones" anyway, so it will be difficult to create a 3-tiered budget.
    - § The strategic planning process/master plan should help identify core principles/goals, and then maybe in the future this would be a more feasible idea for budgeting.
  - It was noted that any extra money that can be found at this time needs to be used to help build up reserves, not to create a "wish-list" budget.
- The latest travel analysis was reviewed (a breakdown of different types of group travel—basically any type of student groups: sports teams, debate teams, etc.).
- There was discussion about various components of AOEP's budget.

- The date/time/location of the next meeting is yet to be determined.
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.