

UND Budget, Restructuring, & Reallocation Committee

Meeting of 7 March 2017

Minutes

Present: Mary Askim-Lovseth, John Shabb, Tom DiLorenzo, Sarah Abentroth, Bill Caraher, Cindy Fetsch, Chris Petschen, Hannah Carlson, Terra Jorgenson, Dex Perkins, Jeff Holm, Nancy Vogeltanz-Holm, Thomasine Heitkamp, Kathy Smart, Ryan Zerr

Absent: Melissa Gjellstad, Barry Brode, Brad Myers

Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm. John Shabb presided.

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the 28 February meeting, which was seconded. Motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Reports were given on the following topics:

- A resolution the University Senate Library Committee will be forward to the University Senate, as well as a “roadmap” provided by that committee which outlines activities for helping to make the library sustainable financially. This information has been provided to the BRRC at the request of the University Senate, to whom this information was originally provided. The SBRRC will review the proposed roadmap at a future meeting (date to be determined) and provide input to the Senate.
- An overview of the current steps in the budget reduction process from the Provost. Mentioned were the following items: the President has recently made presentations to the Legislature which pertained to the impacts of budget cuts on the university; on March 9 the Legislature will receive an updated budget forecast; on March 8 those who have applied for voluntary separation/phased retirement will be notified regarding approval/denial of their applications – most have been approved.
- An update on data availability and the status of the university’s marketing plan. A forum on the marketing plan will first occur on March 8, with subsequent forums to follow later in the semester. It was noted that additional data, related to scholarly activity broken down by faculty member, has been recently provided to the committee. There was some discussion about whether or not additional information will be extracted from Digital Measures, the quality of the data, the uneven usage of Digital Measures across colleges, etc.

There was a discussion about feedback the committee has received since last week’s meeting. In addition to items raised in previous weeks, this included discussion about the usage of graduate courses for undergraduate credit, the need for certain programs on campus, the effectiveness of the marketing plans, and whether or not retiring faculty will be replaced in the near future.

Pertaining to items of business from the last meeting, there was a discussion about:

- The trend in number of faculty over the past 7 years or so. Based on data from Institutional Research, there has been an increase in overall and tenured faculty during this period (through 2015). A similar trend is present across the NDUS. It was noted that the effect of the past and current years' budget reductions on these numbers is still unclear.
- Enrollment caps in English 110/130 courses. Regionally, similar courses at other institutions generally have no more than 22 students per course. Only a few institutions in ND, SD, and MN have caps higher than 22. The discussion evolved into one about which courses across the institution might have the greatest effect on retention, and the possible availability of data to help answer this question.

The meeting ended with a discussion about the committee's role in the budget decision-making process, in particular, whether weekly meetings are a productive use of the committee's time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.