

## University Senate Budget Committee (SBC)

Final report to University Senate 2014-2015

This report reflects activities of the Senate Budget Committee in 2014-2015 AY

Charge and Responsibilities of Senate Budget Committee:

Defined by UO Senate Bylaws:

“5.4 The Senate Budget Committee is charged with informing itself and the University Community about University financial matters. It shall advise the University President, other University administrators, the Senate President, the Senate and the University Community on budgetary policy and long-term financial strategies. The University Administration shall provide all financial information requested by the Committee in a timely fashion. The Budget Committee may initiate the study of financial issues. The Senate Budget Committee shall make recommendations to the Senate for Senate action.”

Membership:

John Chalmers, Finance (Chair); Jane Cramer, Political Science; Paul Dasonville, Psychology; Angie Davis, Accounting; Tim Duy, Economics; Ali Emami, Finance; Marina Guenza, Chemistry, Gordon Sayre, English;

### 1. Introduction

The SBC serves dual roles. First, we provide a sounding board for the Finance and Administration office. We have agreed that we are available to be helpful to the UO Administration and will respect the requests of the administration to maintain confidentiality of the information provided to us in the role of sounding board. We also agreed that our participation in that process should be conveyed to the UO Community in a manner consistent with this role. That is, we are willing to receive information and offer *ad hoc* reactions to it, but our involvement does not provide any sense of approval of administrative decisions.

In our second role, we serve ready to fulfill our charge from the Senate to help provide a better understanding of important financial issues that affect the university. This role will have a continuing reporting/educational component and a special projects component.

### 2. SBC activities in 2014-2015 Academic Year included:

- a) In February, at President Kyr's request, the Senate Budget Committee met with Interim CAS Dean Andrew Marcus to better understand the GTF reductions implemented in response to the CAS budget challenges. This meeting concluded with a short report sent by the SBC chair to President Kyr and then Dean Marcus met with the Senate to explain the plans put in place by CAS.

- b) We met with Roger Thompson, VP for Enrollment Management, to better understand the enrollment picture going forward given the University's dependence on out of state students.
- c) We met with Karen Levear, the Director of Treasury Operations. She provided a summary of the results from the first UO bond sale. This included a discussion of the recently received credit ratings the UO received from the credit rating agencies.
- d) We held at least two meetings to inform the SBC on the budget model and the current state of the UO budget.

### 3. Possible Items for Next Year's Agenda

Issues to be considered for study next year include:

- 1) Should the UO consider changing class scheduling to 90 minute blocks rather than 2 hour blocks? This could free up substantial additional classroom space without requiring additional buildings.
- 2) Should the UO change its billing practices and require tuition be paid at the beginning of every quarter? This could improve our working capital management and increase available funds.
- 3) Conduct a study to evaluate the UO's expenditures on administrative, CBA related and public relations related expenditures relative to UO peer institutions.

We thank Jamie Moffitt, Brad Shelton, and Kelly Zimmerman for their hard work and participation that allows the SBC to function. Thanks also to Robert Kyr, outgoing Senate President, for his work with the SBC.