

Office of the Faculty Senate, OAA
Portland State University
P.O. Box 751
Portland, OR 97207



To: Susan Jeffords, Provost
From: Portland State University Faculty Senate
(Rowanna Carpenter, Presiding Officer; Richard Beyler, Secretary)
Date: 7 December 2022
Re: Summary of Faculty Senate Actions

At the regular meeting on 5 December 2022, Faculty Senate **approved** the curricular **Consent Agenda** with the new courses, changes to courses, and changes to programs listed in Attachment E.1 to the December Agenda.

12-22-2022 — OAA concurs with the curricular consent agenda with the new courses, changes to courses, and changes to programs.

Faculty Senate also **voted to approve**:

- A new policy on graduate academic forgiveness as specified in Attachment E.2.

12-22-2022 — OAA concurs with the new policy on graduate academic forgiveness.

- A resolution responding to the Provost's Program Review and Reduction Process Phase III Report, and calling for a strategic budget process, as stated in Attachment E.3.

12-22-2022 — Please see the attached response from the President and Provost regarding the Faculty Senate resolution.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rowanna Carpenter".

Rowanna Carpenter
Presiding Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard H. Beyler".

Richard H. Beyler
Secretary to the Faculty

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Jeffords".

Susan Jeffords, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Office of the President

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Date: December 22, 2022

To: Rowanna Carpenter, Presiding Officer
Richard H. Beyler, Secretary to the Faculty

From: Stephen Percy, President
Susan Jeffords, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Subject: Administrative Response to Faculty Senate Resolution of December 5, 2022

In its resolution of December 5, 2022, the Faculty Senate, citing the time, labor, and emotional toll of the Program Review and Reduction Process (PRRP), called upon the university to provide information and engage in dialogue about the university's fiscal position and overall efforts to advance financial sustainability. The motion included four bulleted efforts to engage in a budget process and understand alignment with strategic priorities.

- 1. Providing a summary of the overall budget gap that PSU (not just Academic Affairs) has faced over the last five years and is projected to face over the next several years.*

Response: University leadership appreciates faculty concerns about budget, fiscal reduction, and the longer-term future. With the intention of being highly transparent, campus leaders organized two town-hall forums designed to provide extensive information regarding our immediate fiscal status as well as financial information for earlier years designed to show the longer-term trend of lower student counts, falling tuition revenue, and growing challenges of creating a balanced budget. Similar information was shared with the Board of Trustees. All of this information is available on [the Board of Trustees website](#). The link to the recorded Financial Sustainability Forum can be found on the [PSU Fall 2022 Financial Update: Embracing Innovation message](#) from the President. The President's site also features [an array of resources](#) for better understanding the budget.

Preliminary estimates of the potential budgetary shortfall are included in the financial information shared at the town hall meeting. These estimates are being refined as we commence the budgeting for 2023-24 and will be shared with the Board of Trustees and campus as they impact budget building.

- 2. Sharing the range of strategies being considered across PSU, arrayed together, including timelines and the cost to implement each strategy.*

Response: The President announced a set of multi-year strategies to promote financial sustainability in 2019. With the larger than expected drop in student enrollment experienced in Fall 2022, our fiscal position became more challenging. While information on these strategies has been shared previously, the Faculty Senate motion demonstrates clearly that faculty would like to better understand the array of strategies, their interconnection, the underlying logic, and cumulative impact. The President is committed to preparing a report that addresses these questions and to share it with the campus community no later than January 2022.

3. *Sharing the anticipated budget savings or revenue generation of each strategy, including budget savings from administrative reorganization and impacts on core functions of education and research and strategic priorities (racial justice and equity, student success, and community engagement) of each strategy.*

Response: These questions will be addressed to the best of our ability in the report referenced above. This will include a comparison of the fundamental principles and values that underlay financial sustainability strategies.

4. *Convening campus for an intentional and participatory process based on the budget and strategy information requests above as well as providing facilitation and time necessary to discuss ways to move PSU toward a financially sustainable institution that supports our students and curriculum and fulfills our vision. Here we would offer the winter symposium of the Time to Act convenings as examples of venues for such discussions.*

Response: The President and the Provost appreciate both the spirit and intention of this request for a campus convening to explore the questions identified in the motion. The President and Provost will work directly with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and/or the Faculty Senate Budget Committee in framing and organizing a time and space for effective dialogue in a format similar to the winter symposium. Joint planning is seen as the most effective means to ensure that our campus gathering will be mutually purposeful and productive.