Over the last two years, the Budget Committee has reported to Faculty Senate quarterly, instead of the Constitution-mandated annually. Senate Steering Committee felt that information about the University’s fiscal situation was important enough that it would be helpful for the Senate to be kept informed on a quarterly basis.

This annual report is the three quarterly reports brought together into a single PDF file.
Budget Committee Fall 2014 Quarterly Report

Ron Babcock, Mirela Blekic, Michael Bowman (chair), Mitchell Cruzan, Michele Gamburd, Jonathen Gates, David Hansen, James Hook, Cheryl Livneh, Krystine McCants, Robert Mercer, Eva Nuñez, José Padin, Jill Rissi, Michael Taylor

FY15 Budget Update

The Committee received an update on FY14 actual expenditures and the FY15 budget. We also received the FY14 fiscal year-end RCAT and the FY15 adopted budget RCAT.

FY 16 Budget Timeline

We also got a copy of the budget process timeline for the FY16 budget.

Liaison Relationship with the Deans

The Committee has had two discussions (one with the Provost) on the liaison relationship with the Deans. Last year, Divisional representatives served as liaisons from the Budget Committee to their Deans.

As was done last year, Budget Committee members will work with the Educational Policy Committee counterparts. Our goal this year is to increase engagement and start that engagement earlier in the process. The colleges and schools are currently developing their strategic enrollment management plans and we hope to have Committee members talk to their Deans during this process, in the hopes that we can comment on and have some influence on the SEM plans.

We are interested in exploring how the faculty in general can become more involved in the development of strategic enrollment management plans.

Role of the Committee in Program Review
The Committee has discussed its role in regards program review in light of the new budget model. In new model, more financial decision-making has been pushed down to the college or school level. A Dean’s signature on the new program proposal sheet indicates they will fund the program.

What does review by the Budget Committee bring to this process? Primarily it informs Senators as to the financial impact of a proposal so they can take that into account when they vote on the proposal. If Deans are going to commit to funding a program, then surely their fiscal officers are doing some sort of analysis of the program. Perhaps that analysis can be sent along with the proposal when it leaves the college or school and goes to a curriculum committee.

The Committee is soliciting input from senators and other faculty as to what the Committee’s role should be in program review. Please send any comments to bowman@pdx.edu.

Expenditure Spreadsheets

In mid-September the Budget Office provided all-funds, full expenditure spreadsheets for FY13. This has been helpful in understanding the expenditures for that year. The Committee looks forward to receiving revenue spreadsheets for FY13 and both sets of spreadsheets for additional years, particularly last year.

School of Public Health

The Chair met for an hour with Elena Andresen (Interim Dean) and Leslie McBride (Interim Associate Dean) on the forthcoming new unit proposal. Budget information on the proposal is forthcoming and will be provided in multiple steps.

Website

The Committee’s website is at www.pdx.edu/faculty-senate/budget-committee.
Budget Committee
Winter Report 2015

Members
Members: Ron Babcock (Music), Mirela Blekic (University Studies), Todd Bodner (Psychology), Michael Bowman (Library, chair) Mitchell Cruzan (Biology), Michele Gamburd (Anthropology), Jonathen Gates (student), David Hansen (SBA), Courtney Hanson (Graduate Studies), James Hook (MCEGS), Gerardo Lafferriere (Mathematics & Statistics), Krystine McCants (student), Robert Mercer (CLAS), Eva Nuñez (World Languages & Literatures), José Padin (Sociology, EPC chair, ex-officio), Candyce Reynolds (Educational Leadership & Policy), Jill Rissi (Public Administration), Michael Taylor (SSW)

Consultants: Sona Andrews (OAA), David Burgess (OIRP), Alan Finn (Budget Office) Gina Greco (World Languages & Literatures), Kathi Ketcheson (OIRP), Kevin Reynolds (FADM)

Strategic Enrollment Management Plans
Committee members read the college and schools’ draft strategic enrollment management plans. Feedback on specific plans was presented to the Provost and Deans. The “final” version of the plans are available to read at https://sites.google.com/a/pdx.edu/academic-enrollment-management-plan/home and the Committee highly recommends all faculty read their college/school’s plan.

Proposals
School of Public Health
The Committee received a draft of the School of Public Health proposal the first week in February, and the draft budget in the second week. The Committee has discussed the proposal twice (as of February 7) and is continuing discussions to develop a budget impact statement.

Process Change
We have made a change in the process by which we review proposals. The two-person review panels post their comments into a shared Google doc for the rest of the Committee to review before they go to Steve Harmon for posting to the curriculum tracker.

College/School Liaison Program
Budget Committee members serve as liaisons to their college/school deans. Members are also designated to serve as liaisons to Honors, IELP, and University Studies. The goal is to keep the Committee informed about planning at the college/school level and also to attempt to get some faculty input into planning at the early stages, where it has the highest potential impact. We are also working with divisional members of the Educational Policy Committee on this. Engagement has varied from unit to unit, and this is an ongoing process.

Committee Role
The Committee is engaging in periodic discussions on the Committee’s role in the new budget process.

VP for Academic & Fiscal Planning Search
Members of the Committee participated with members of Senate Steering Committee and the Faculty Advisory Committee in interviewing the candidates for the Vice Provost for Academic and Fiscal Planning position. Members provided feedback to the Provost.
Updated Budget Forecast
The Committee received an updated budget forecast from Kevin Reynolds in February. Details to be presented at the Senate meeting.

Chair’s Activities
The Chair has served on the Fee Advisory Committee this quarter. This Committee provides recommendations on non-mandatory fee changes to the Vice President for Finance and Administration. The Committee has had good discussions on what tuition should cover and what students should take away from an activity or which they are being charged a fee. The Committee has a guiding principle of trying to reduce the students’ cost.

The Chair also observes the Board of Trustees’ Finance and Administration Committee monthly meetings. The goal is to learn what the Board is asking about the budget. To date, the focus has primarily been on determining what authority they have, particularly regarding authorizing bonds. Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee meetings are available online at www.pdx.edu/board/finance-and-administration-committee.
Budget Committee Spring Quarter Report

Faculty Senate Budget Committee
17 May 2015

Members: Ron Babcock (MUS), Mirela Blekic (UNST), Todd Bodner (PSYC), Michael Bowman (LIB, chair), Mitch Cruzan (BIO), Michele Gamburd (ANTH), Jonathen Gates (student), David Hansen (SBA), Courtney Hanson (OGS), Jim Hook (MCECS), Gerardo Lafferriere (MTH), Krystine McCants (student), Robert Mercer (CLAS), Eva Nuñez (WLL), José Padín (SOC, chair of EPC), Candye Reynolds (ELP), Jill Rissi (PA), Michael Taylor (SSW)

Consultants: Sona Andrews (OAA), David Burgess (OIRP), Alan Finn (BO), Gina Greco (WLL), Kathi Ketcheson (OIRP), Scott Marshall (OAA), Gil Miller (OAA), Kevin Reynolds (FADM)

SPH Review
The Committee spent considerable time reviewing the proposal for the creation of the School of Public Health. The Committee’s statement is in this Senate packet.

FY16 Budget
Units are receiving a 3% budget increase, but have to pay for personnel cost increases (PERS and PEBB cost increases and pay raises). Additional money was allocated to revenue supporters, based on their strategic enrollment management plans. The Committee has just received the Academic Affairs budget as this report was being written and will be hearing about the University’s overall budget, and a budget forecast for next year the following week.

There are two uncertainties in the budget for next year: will the Supreme Court decision on PERS make the Legislature wary about spending money, and will the Legislature approve the new outcomes-based allocation formula that HECC approved this spring.

Budget Analysis Model
The Committee talked with the team members of the Budget Model Analysis Project. Its goal is to develop tools to improve scenario analysis (like the RCAT Planner). The Committee provided information about what it wanted to see in these tools.

Liaison Relationships with the Colleges and Schools
Divisional representatives continue to meet with their Deans. Uptake has been variable, depending on the specific deans and the specific faculty members involved. The Committee will continue to work to make these relationships robust.

New Vice Provost
Scott Marshall was hired as the new Vice Provost for Academic and Fiscal Planning in March and is doing this half-time while still serving as Interim Dean of the School of Business Administration half-time. The Committee has begun a discussion with him regarding how he and the Committee can work together. We anticipate discussions on how PBB can be further refined and how the Committee can help surface academic questions in the budget process.

Program Reviews
The Committee has focused on reviewing new programs and has not reviewed program revisions this quarter. We will be looking at ways to streamline and improve the Budget Committee’s review process for next year.
Other Reviews
The Committee is reviewing proposals for the creation of the STEM Institute and the transfer of the Department of Economics from CLAS to CUPA.

Plans for Next Year
Next year the Committee will focus on: working with the new Vice Provost on refining PBB; streamlining the Budget Committee’s program review process; and improving the liaison relationships to the colleges and schools.

The Committee will continue to work with the Budget Office to find ways of compiling prior years’ expenditures and revenues in a way that will inform the faculty and is deliverable by the Budget Office. The Committee will be working to improve transparency of budget, expenditures, and revenues.

The Committee has recommended to the Committee on Committees that Michael Bowman and Gerardo Lafferriere serve as co-chairs of this Committee next year.