

Budget Council Minutes

January 4, 2024

3:00 p.m.

1 Tigert Hall (CFO's Conference Room)

Or, if needed, via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92515020297?pwd=QkJUS1R5RlRrSEhJa0VCS01LKzczdz09>

Meeting ID: 925 1502 0297 Passcode: 032083 Dial: +1 305 224 1968

Present: George Kolb, John Kraft, Jorg Peters, Catherine Striley, Zhigang Li, Shawn Weatherford, Kevin Lintner, Taylor Jantz and Laurie Bialosky.

1. Call to Order – Jorg Peters, Budget Council Chair

The meeting was called to order by Budget Council Chair Jorg Peters at 3:00 p.m.

2. Approval of November 9, 2023 Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Introduction of Office of the CFO transition leadership - [Taylor Jantz and Kevin Lintner](#)

Taylor Jantz and Kevin Lintner previously worked as consultants for Huron with UF.

They have been reviewing all budget office policies and processes and are making efficiency improvements. One of the presented topics discussed was the limitations that the state has put on UF. As President Sasse has said, the low tuition rate has been and is a problem for UF. It is not really possible to say that some parts of the university are state-supported, and some aren't. Mr. Jantz clarified that as a public institution, all faculty and units are public and are subsidized by the state. The challenge is how we use the budget to achieve the goals the university wants.

The Budget Enhancement Enactment Committee (BEEC) will be looking at how to maximize Florida State money to incentivize teaching and research.

Dr. Weatherford asked about strategies for increasing effectiveness. Mr. Lintner stated that one is administrative support. Another is efficiencies of course delivery. They are working with Provost Angle to see how faculty are using their time. Space is an issue. Classroom utilization needs to be more effective rather than building new buildings. Increasing direct reporting to the central office might help rather than the decentralized, duplicative classroom scheduling

operating now. McKinsey is looking at this. A lot of what they are doing is defining what departments lead, what can be scaled up, and making sure the right people are doing the right things. Examples from the committee such as foreign visas and registration were brought up. They are cataloging what is happening so they can argue effectively in Tallahassee for funding, given the benefit.

Dr. Peters was concerned about the tension between decentralization and centralization. Mr Jantz agreed this was tricky, and UF had been so decentralized that additional accountability to a central office was needed.

Mr Jantz stated that in the summer of 2023, McKinsey billed 4 million working with the President, who received their report. Now they are working with Senate President Wright to ease administrative burden. They plan to finish end of Feb.

Dr. Kraft asked about the strategic plan and accountability. He said to his knowledge, colleges and faculty members weren't involved in planning. Mr. Jantz said that strategic planning came directly from the president. President Sasse gave new state money to each college, and they will have to report how it was leveraged. As we move forward there will be more coordination.

Dr. Peters said to his knowledge, money funding the strategic initiatives was 70% regular and 30% strategic in the first wave and raises were comingled with strategic initiatives. Mr. Jantz said that this was an attempt to give deans the ability to work within the constraints of budget to give out faculty raises. If this process is inefficient, it will be reviewed. Constraints due to the Central Bargaining Unit were mentioned, but the deans know what is happening and the bargaining is ongoing.

Dr. Li raised the issue of money coming directly from the Provost's Office for AI faculty, and before that, Preeminence faculty. Mr. Jantz said that when we have more soft money, we can save more. This brought up the issue of faculty saving or having to give up their IDCs that they saved for rainy days in research. Mr. Jantz said if these reserves continue to increase, Tallahassee wants an explanation. Mr. Lintner said he couldn't give an exact number for how much reserve might be appropriate; he admitted more might be needed if the faculty member was seeking multiple million-dollar grants. They do understand that need; the State needs the context.

Mr. Jantz also discussed UFs need to maximize the use of the most flexible money – foundation, off-book, etc. John said the business college does that. He also indicated that faculty could be more effective with more staff. Are money and time well spent? The President wants the state to know we are the best place to spend new dollars.

4. [UF Financial Transparency Portal](#) / **Administrative Liaison's Updates** – George Kolb, Assistant Vice President, Financial Analysis and Budget

Due to time constraints, this part of the agenda will be moved to next month.

5. Council Guest(s)/Agenda Suggestions - *Maria Martin Gutierrez, Interim Vice President of University of Florida Advancement and Associate Vice President for the UF Foundation*

No one disagreed with his suggestion.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by Catherine Striley