

Budget Council

Activity report, 08/28/14-04/27/15

During the academic year 2014/15, the Budget Council dealt with a variety of topics pertaining to budgets and fiscal matters. One of the most important issues that the council addressed was “pushing the budget book down” into colleges. In other words, the council started with the idea of implementing a set of guidelines for college budget committees that would encourage the same degree of transparency as that associated with the RCM system. Over several months of work in cooperation with Gregory DuBois, the Assistant Vice-President for Finance and Planning, the members of the council came up with an online template showing budgets of all UF colleges, with the possibility of “drilling” down to the level of every department. This demo version of the template was approved in the last meeting of the council (April 24, 2015) and will be launched on the CFO website on July 15. The Budget Council agenda also included discussions of such topics as the RCM assessment; the financial aspects of UF Online; the UF budgetary structure; “repurposing” of special centers/institutes/facilities equipment; and the drafting of a user-friendly manual for new members of the council, which would allow them quick familiarization with the technical vocabulary (and acronyms) used in most meetings. In November, the council was asked by the senate chair for advice regarding a ULC open access resolution. At the meeting in December 2014, Michael McKee, Office of the Vice-President and CFO, gave a presentation on budgeting and the RCM. At the meeting in March 2015, Andrew McCollough, Associate Provost for Teaching and Technology, gave a presentation of the UF Online, with a special emphasis on financial aspects.