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Budget Council Annual Report

During 2017-18, the Budget Council has continued its efforts towards ensuring transparency and faculty access to information about revenue flows on the one hand and budget allocation on the other.

Previous years' work of the budget council with the help of the CFO's office and university budget office resulted in a faculty-readable financial transparency portal and associated information related to colleges and departments, together with a video and slide tutorial. This has been posted on the budget council's webpage.

One goal of this exercise was to clarify to faculty which budget allocation decisions automatically reflect revenue flows, and which allocations were made at the discretion of deans and other administrators.

During the past year, the council, with the help of the university budget office has generated the same type of transparency portal for support units of the central administration.

This will also be posted on the budget council webpage.

In addition, the budget council has obtained and publicized the portion of department and college budgets that is spent on various categories of OPS employees, among other things to encourage units to transition employees who have held "temporary" OPS jobs for multiple years into TEAMS employees to better reflect their long term status.

Furthermore, the budget council has continued its practice of inviting various offices/units within or related to the university to talk about the sources of their revenues how they are connected to the university and how the decisions relating to the university are made. In some cases, we have recommended to the steering committee that these speakers present to the full senate. In the previous years, we had such talks by the Office of Research, University Athletic Association, UFonline, and IFAS. This year, we had similar talks by the Office of the Comptroller (effort reporting), Institutional Research, University of Florida Foundation and University of Florida Research Foundation.

We hope that the future budget council will be able to bring transparency to the revenues flowing into the university from the University of Florida Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity (?). While some of the information cannot be released due to donor privacy, pertinent information is available - in a selective and piecemeal fashion - to the beneficiaries, namely colleges, departments and individual faculty, along with directives and spending restrictions. Making this transparently scrutinizable by all faculty could facilitate the orderly flow of vast faculty expertise information to the foundation. This could do no harm and potentially help broaden, balance and target the foundation's fundraising efforts.

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