

## Budget Council Minutes

October 16, 2020

3:00 p.m.

via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98547189297?pwd=bTRnSWsweThOdmJGUhbjUWIRL1FEZz09>

**Present:** Ashley Ghiaseddin, Keith Schneider, George Kolb, Kevin Trejos, Lauren Solberg, Laurie Bialosky, and Mei-Fang Lan.

### 1. Call to Order

-The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Budget Council Chair Ashely Ghiaseddin.

### 2. Approval of September 18, 2020 Minutes

-The minutes were approved.

### 3. Chair Updates and Council Discussion

Council discussed the following points:

#### [-Furlough draft policy and regulation](#)

The Compensation Committee, Welfare Council, and Faculty Senate continue discussing and providing feedback to UF Human Resources and Faculty Senate administrative liaisons on the draft furlough policy.

-Council discussed how any possible future furloughs would help the financial health of UF. It also discussed in which situations it would be necessary to consider it.

-No furloughs have currently been requested by any unit.

-Chair Ghiaseddin shared details from the [October 1 Faculty Senate Steering Committee Chair's Report](#) related to the affirmative vote for the adaption of the furlough regulation at the September 29 Board of Trustees meeting by Faculty Senate Chair and Trustee Sylvain Doré.

-While the point of a furlough is for the university to reduce its spending, how it does so was discussed, notably that flexibility is needed in the policy because funding sources are so widely-varied between units (i.e. the number of and parameters for using dollars from state money, grants, donations, clinicals, auxiliaries, etc. )

-Benefits, such as health insurance and retirement, are retained when an employee is in a furlough.

-How does UF fund furloughs and strike a balance with areas of growth within UF? The Artificial Intelligence Initiative, for example, was the result of a donation with state-matched funds, and, due to the involvement of so many units, is expected to contribute to growth in practically all academic areas of UF. Carry-forward funds helped to provide funding for the Data Center power expansion. Creation of the Data Center was key to the ability for UF to move forward with this project.

-A large expense needing to be address is deferred maintenance, especially for many of UF's older buildings. A recurring funding source is typically used to help gradually reduce and resolve such ongoing projects, whereas carryforward money is used for non-recurring items. An example of a recent carryforward is the faculty 500 initiative.

-Campus master plan. New buildings are typically financed from a different pot of money than deferred maintenance. Funding for new buildings typically come from donors and the state-allocated capital budget.

-COVID impacts. Expenses related to COVID are generally now being diverted from existing budgets.

-The intensive and additional cleaning thus far has not seemed to have dramatically expanded general maintenance costs. Facilities have existing budgets which would fund such cleaning expenses. General maintenance often uses the same pot of money as deferred maintenance.

-Possible COVID testing money sources might be some combination of a carryforward and from individuals' insurance.

-Cashed based or auxiliary dependent units are severely challenged in recovering from lost revenue from items such as clinical appointments, parking permits sold, elective medical procedures, etc. Hospital reserves are being used and will need to be gradually rebuilt as the COVID environment stabilizes.

-Face to face teaching in the Spring semester was discussed. President Fuchs has emphasized that UF will safely and fully re-open. Maximizing space utilization and it's relationship to federal and state funding was discussed.

-More information about state funding for UF will be known in the spring.

#### **4. 2020-21 Agenda Topic Prioritizing/Speaker Invitations/Spring Dates Confirmation**

-3 p.m. on Fridays works well for members for the Spring semester so meeting dates will remain [as originally scheduled](#).

- Andrew Winden, UF Associate Professor of Law, and UF Executive Chief of Staff, Dr. Win Phillips will be invited to attend the next council meeting to discuss sustainability and environmentally-responsible university investments.

-An overview of the UF Foundation (UFF) and its funding can be provided by Tom Mitchell, VP for Advancement, or David Christie, UFF Assistant Vice President/CFO.

-An update on retirement benefits from Human Resources will be requested.

#### **5. Adjournment**

-The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.