

Budget Council Minutes

December 13, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

***239 Tigert (Provost's Conference Room)**

*if needed, Zoom link is:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/93306380609?pwd=cnREQTdDTU5pVWV3bkdzZlVPTkJKGQT09>

Present: Ashley Ghiaseddin, David C. Bloom, George Kolb, Lauren Solberg, Jorg Peters, Ariel Pomputius, Laurie Bialosky, Nathalie Wall, Shawn Weatherford, and Amanda Phalin.

1. **Call to Order** - Ashley Ghiaseddin, Budget Council Chair
 - The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Budget Council Chair Ashley Ghiaseddin.
2. **Approval of November 15, 2021 Minutes**
 - The minutes were approved.
3. **Chair's Report/Updates**
 - Consideration can be made by council regarding how to increase employer benefits, including making employee contributions more comparable to our peer institutions. This item has been discussed by the Compensation & Equity Committee and it may be beneficial to view benefits through an increase in both employee contributions and compensation (as opposed to viewing the issue through an 'either/or' lens). Establishing a specific timeline, such as, for example, within three years, to reach this goal may also be helpful. Other considerations might include providing tuition discounts for university employees and family, parking fee assistance, etc.
 - At its meeting last week, the Board of Trustees (BOT) discussed how to best retain and hire faculty, with consideration to state funding resources. Council discussed the likelihood of the state directly increasing retirement benefits and the helpfulness of framing this conversation as an opportunity to remain a competitive institution. UF Benefits Director and Faculty Senate administrative liaison Shannon Edwards has responded to information requests to assist in tracking relevant comparisons.
4. **[UFICO ESG Policy Overview](#)**
 - The UF Environment, Social and Corporate Governance Policy was referenced in discussion about a forthcoming, proposed Sustainability Committee recommendation list. [Source: <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Pages/Budget->

[Council/AgendaMinutes2020-2021\]](#) Jan 15 2021.

- The committee meets this Thursday to draft a recommendation to suggest more transparency and forward planning to focus on strong ESG investments. A commitment to a better standard is being sought.
- Connection to the endowments network, and communication of the standards of sustainable investments were discussed.
- Council expressed interest in reviewing the recommendations from the Sustainability Committee. A resolution may be useful to present to the BOT as a statement of faculty vision in this area.
- Council favors the presentation of a resolution or of a document which could be similarly- fashioned to the [Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility \(IDEA\) Resolution & Action Items: A Living Document](#) which was generated by the Welfare Council. It contains relevant background information and points of reference to provide a guide to goals and progress made or to specific points in need of attention.
- Sustainability Committee Chair and Budget Council member Ariel Pomputius will share the committee's forthcoming recommendations with council for their input.

5. Administrative Liaison's Report/Updates – George Kolb, Assistant Vice President, Financial Analysis and Budget

- Assistant Vice President Kolb provided an overview of the transparency portal and explained the landing page, which includes a support unit link and a college link:
Colleges:

https://reporting.it.ufl.edu/ibmcognos/bi/?pathRef=.public_folders%2FFaculty%2BBudget%2BInformation%2FBudget%2Band%2BExpenditures%2Bby%2BCollege%2F2021-12-13T12%253A00%253A25.389Z

Support Units:

https://reporting.it.ufl.edu/ibmcognos/bi/?pathRef=.public_folders%2FFaculty%2BBudget%2BInformation%2FBudget%2Band%2BExpenditures%2Bby%2BSupport%2BUnit%2F2021-02-05T12%253A00%253A15.837Z

- The numbers are live and are essentially updated daily.
- The colleges are listed alphabetically with funding sources displayed for: current state appropriations, carryforward state appropriations, grants, IDC and 'other'. An explanation is provided in the footer of the portal's first page:

State Appropriations - CRRNT

State Appropriations - Current Budget Period

SA - CYFWD

State Appropriations - Carry Forward funds from prior Budget Period

Grants

Includes currently open 201 and 209 projects

IDC

Includes 211, 212, 213, and 214 projects

Other Funding Sources

Miscellaneous funding sources such as Foundation Accounts and Auxiliary funds

- Commitments, expenditures, and revenue rows can be viewed and can be drilled down to view by department level within each college.
- A more granular view of the colors of money can be seen by viewing the 'Expenditures by department and fund' section.
- 'Other' refers to dollars which are not state appropriations or grants and includes a variety of dollars such as from the foundation, auxiliary, clinical, strategic, financial aid, or endowment, etc.
- Council discussed that carry forwards which continue to roll over can negatively impact the ability to obtain funding from the BOT or legislature, as they are seen as unspent or unused money.
- Flexible money versus money provided in a specific color were discussed.
- Tuition increases [or lack of increases in the State University System (SUS)] was briefly discussed.
- Although logistically difficult for Enterprise to coordinate, a snapshot of past years would be helpful to see how allocations have changed over time. Some past posted snapshots are in .pdf format.
 - Distinctions pertaining to tuition waiver money directed to the university versus to the student were briefly discussed.
- The Faculty Senate Secretary will post the links today at:
<https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Councils/Budget-Council>.
- To update faculty that the portal is available, the Faculty Senate Secretary will provide a blurb which can be reviewed for submission to *The Faculty Update*, the Provost's Newsletter.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.