

Budget Council Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2023

4:00 p.m.

via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92607465464?pwd=bkJWZXVmN2pvOHduVFpncU1qMGxxUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 0746 5464 Passcode: 115082 Dial: 301-715-8592

Absent: (excused) Ashley Ghiaseddin, Ethan Ghozali, Joseph Glover, Curtis Reynolds, Karen Whalen, Shawn Weatherford

Present: Catherine Striley, acting co-chair, George Kolb, Jorg Peters, Ariel Pomputius.

Invited: Matt Williams, Director of UF's Office of Sustainability and Energy Integration.
Mark Helms, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Services.

4:06 p.m. Call to Order – Catherine Striley, Acting Chair, Budget Council

1. **Approval of December 12, 2022 Minutes.** Minutes were approved with no changes.
2. **Chair's Report / Steering Committee Update** - Ashley Ghiaseddin, Budget Council Chair couldn't attend; no report.
3. **Updates** – Matt Williams, Director of UF's Office of Sustainability and Energy Integration. Matt reported on energy plans. Jorg Peters asked about solar farms. Matt Williams explained that we are limited in how many megawatts we can generate by the Public Services Commission. We do purchase energy from Duke's Crystal River solar site. Ariel Pomputius asked about whether we could challenge the limits to our solar production. Jorg Peters asked if we could produce and sell to ourselves. Matt Williams said other state universities are looking at doing so, but the sites have to be really big. Both Publix and Walmart want to add solar to their roofs. We are trying to prepare for climate resilience and be carbon neutral by 2024. Duke is planning to reduce their emissions and use wind turbines. The Board of Trustees turned down wind power once. We purchase as much power off the grid as we can. Matt also responded to the public perception that we could save GRU – which we can't because in 1978, they gave the campus to Progress Energy. We do spend \$15 million a year with GRU. Jorg Peters asked about building off-campus garage and charge cars for free. We do have places to charge cars; US may get a tax benefit. Matt also said we are looking at how best to use our conservation areas. The bridge over Jennings Creek will be replaced; there are some structural improvements making barriers to runoff. Jennings Creeks sediment flows down and must be removed. It flows into Lake Alice, which has no exit. Jorg Peters also suggested student projects; bridge building would be good for civil engineering students. He and Matt will connect.
4. **Administrative Liaison Updates** – George Kolb, Assistant Vice President, Financial Analysis and Budget and Mark Helms, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Services, provided updates. George Kolb provided a quick update on the budget model. IFAS/CALS Dean Elaine Turner reviewed their increased share of the

overhead. There are many costs which have been flat or have had very small increases. Transportation is also an auxiliary; we support the Regional Transit System (RTS). Software costs have risen a lot in many cases. The library had a 1.1 million dollar journal bill. They are holding everyone to a small increase, and they are using Huron Consultants to help keep overhead low. He noted that they are always looking for opportunities for unrestricted funding. Mark Helms agreed; their funding has been flat and there are 600,000 sq. ft. of new buildings to cover. They are not “sitting” on carryforwards to spend and there is no new money. They were unable to pass through maintenance costs deferred in '23, now again in '24 and with the new model, they can't ask colleges to absorb them until '25. Many costs have increased. Utilities have been slow to increase costs due to Hurricane Ian; as they increase we can hope they level out. George Kolb is hoping for new unrestricted funding. Dr. Sasse may have different priorities; Dr. Fuchs wanted 90 – 95% of new money to go to employees. Ariel asked about what our University lobbyist thought about new budget opportunities. It's too early to tell. She also said Library Acquisitions plan for a 7% increase, but with no faculty and staff come many additional costs to acquisitions (per person cost) which she is not sure people realize.

5. 2023-2024 Budget Council Chair Election

Eligible: Weatherford, Whalen, Striley, and Peters. Ariel and Jorg suggested Catherine Striley serve, and she is willing to serve. Since the others that are eligible were not present, we did not proceed to vote.

6. Adjournment. Ariel moved we adjourn and Jorg seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Minutes Submitted by Acting Budget Council Chair Catherine Striley.