

Annual report of the Financial and Physical Planning Committee for 2022-2023

Submitted by Guillermo Rodríguez, Co-Chair

Membership of the FFPC in AY 22-23: *Thomas Borchert (Senate President, CAS); Jane Knodell (CAS), co-chair; Guillermo Rodríguez (CAS) co-chair; Terry Bradshaw (CALS); Andrey Ukhov (GSB); Maureen Neumann (CESS); Greg Rowangould (CEMS); David Kaufman (RSENr); Daniel DeSanto (Libraries); Lisa McGee (LCOM); Beth Zigmund (LCOM); Teresa Cahill-Griffin (CNHS); Evan Siegel (SGA).*

The Committee is staffed by Tiera Porter. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for her invaluable service and support.

Activities of the FPPC in 2022-2023:

- The FPPC developed its own operating procedures to function like other Senate committees.
- The committee members welcomed Shari Bergquist, University Budget Director, who provided us with an overview and update of the IBB model and its workings at the beginning of the academic year.
- Our committee also received updates on the state of the University budget from VP for Finance, Richard Cate, and on the enrollment trends from VP for Enrollment, Jay Jacobs. One of the objectives of these meetings with both administrators was to better understand the sustainability of the “tuition-freeze” policy currently in effect (considering increased inflation risk and corresponding operational cost increases), and to be able to secure instances at which the committee could provide feedback to senior administration before significant decisions are/were made.
- The Committee also engaged in a conversation with different Deans about their budgetary processes and challenges. The following Deans agreed to participate in these exchanges: Bill Falls (CAS); Linda Schadler (CEMS); Cindy Forehand (GC); Bryn Geffert (Libraries); Katharine Shepherd (CESS) and Barbara Arel (GSB). The most salient issues we identified were:
 - Diverse spending objectives of the Fund108 monies for each college, from helping new faculty with housing costs to paying for marketing campaigns for graduate programs.
 - The state and support of graduate education at UVM: housing costs for new faculty recruitment and retention, as well as grad students’ stipends and housing availability.
 - The additional costs incurred by units that run accredited programs.
 - The IBB model as a hindrance to the growth path of some units, for example in its treatment of endowment expenses or the planning uncertainties connected to indirect expenses.
 - Severe cuts to budget and personnel in some units

Topics for the 23-24 Academic Year:

- Information gathering and analysis to understand the impact of the tuition-freeze policy on the quality of student experience.
- Budgetary challenges in the pursuit of R1 status.
- Analysis of the space-cost algorithm: costs of different kinds of space, rules around shedding space, etc.
- Briefings on the University budget and budget decisions at different key points in the budget cycle.