



FACULTY SENATE

Financial & Physical Planning Committee
January 9, 2023, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present: Terry Bradshaw (CALs), Teresa Cahill-Griffin (CNHS), Dan DeSanto (LIB), Evan Eyer (FS VP), Jane Knodell (CAS), Lisa McGee (LCOM), Maureen Neumann (CESS), Guillermo Rodriguez (CAS)

Absent: Thomas Borchert (Faculty Senate President), David Kaufman (RSNER), Greg Rowangould (CEMS) Evan Siegel (SGA), Andrey Ukhov (GSB), Beth Zigmund (LCOM) Pending (GSS)

Guests: Shari Bergquist, Richard Cate

The meeting was called to order by chair Guillermo Rodriguez at 2:00pm via Microsoft Teams.

1. Approval of December Minutes. The minutes of December 2022 were approved as written.

2. Chair Update.

- There was a list of questions sent to Richard Cate prior to the meeting. Unfortunately, the questions were not received before the start of the meeting.
- Guillermo and Jane will work with the FS Executive committee on potentially reporting out any information from the todays meeting with Richard to the full Faculty Senate.
- School of World Languages, Terri was on the Ad Hoc Committee as a FPPC representative. The proposal was approved by the committee and is moving forward to the Faculty Senate for a vote. The only recommendation from the committee was they consider including sign language in the future.

3. 2023 FPPC Topics

- Dean Geffert will be at the February meeting to discuss the Libraries budget, any questions for Dean Geffert can be sent to Guillermo or Jane.
- The Faculty Senate Office will invite Dean Forehand to discuss the Graduate College budget at the February meeting.
- Compression / Salary issues. The FPPC may want to suggest the Faculty Senate ask for a compression study, this is something that should go through the UA first.
- Capacity and the metrics around student credit hours being taught.

- What is the impact on the student experience because of the tuition freeze.
- The FS Office will invite Jay Jacobs to the March meeting to discuss enrollment.
- The budget around Student Health Services and the quality of services they provide.

4. CNHS Budget Update, Dean Anderson. Dean Anderson communicated with the FPPC that she was unable to attend the meeting. This topic was tabled.

5. VP of Finance, Richard Cate.

1. What has enabled for the tuition-freeze policy to be extended next year?

To be clear, this is not a policy as the feasibility of freezing tuition is investigated yearly using various modeling scenarios. When this started over 4 years ago, as part of our commitment to ensuring that UVM remain affordable and accessible to our students, we instituted practices early on to control costs, which we review and continue annually.

For the coming academic year, our ability to freeze tuition is abetted largely by the 25% increase in the state's base appropriation to the university, its first such increase in 14 years.

2. What are the strategic objectives connected to the freezing of tuition?

It is directly tied to Amplifying our Impact strategic vision, and in particular, ensuring student success. It states we "carefully evaluate expenses to minimize costs and make a UVM education more affordable and accessible."

Before the tuition freeze, our tuition exceeded institutions that were ranked at or above that of UVM. Faced with the combination of the declining population of high school graduates, particularly in the New England and Northeast catchment areas, and being located in a region with an extraordinary number of colleges and universities who are our academic competitors for this population, we need to not only maintain our value proposition but improve it.

3. Do you have a particular metric by which you measure the success/effectiveness of this policy?

We consider the following:

1. *Our ability to meet the strategic vision for UVM as outlined in our Amplifying Our Impact.*
2. *The impact on our ability to meet our Academic Success Goals.*
3. *Whether our tuition is competitive relative to that of our peers and aspirants.*
4. *The impact on financial stability.*
5. *The impact on our ability to maintain the current service levels campus-wide.*

The success of the tuition freeze is reflected in outcomes reflecting access and affordability for students, including:

1. *A 63% increase in applications since the beginning of the freeze*
2. *Greater selectivity in the application process (acceptance rate under 60%) related to the increase in applications and attractiveness of UVM*
3. *Historically largest number of students identifying as first-generation and/or BIPOC, as well as the students from outside New England at UVM*

4. What metric will be used to determine if the policy can be extended further in time?

All of the above.

5. If this policy were to be extended for another year, what date will you be making such a decision by?

The decision to continue the freeze through FY 24 has been made as was previously reported. A decision about tuition rate for FY 25 will likely occur in October 2023.

6. Are there any major budgetary/physical plant decisions being planned? When will you be seeking advice from our committee on those actions?

The Board of Trustees is currently considering next steps for the athletics/recreation facilities. When those discussions result in a proposal, the Committee will have the opportunity to provide input.

Richard agreed to attend the September meeting to discuss the potential of another tuition freeze before the final decision is made. Here is the list of consideration when deciding on the tuition:

Growth in UG Net Tuition
Growth in Grad Net Tuition
Growth in Non degree Tuition
Growth in Summer Tuition
Growth in Medical Tuition
Growth in State Appropriations
Growth in F&A
Growth in Internal Activities (income and expense units like Residential Life)
Growth in Investment Income/Unrest Endowment/Annual Giving
Growth in Other Income (program fees, athletic ticket sales, real estate income, etc.)
Growth in Salaries & Wages/Benefits
Growth in Unit Operating Budgets
Growth in Library Acquisitions
Growth in Utilities (Electricity/Gas/Oil/Propane)
Growth in Physical Plant Operating (non-personnel)
Growth in Deferred Maintenance
Growth in Facilities Renewal (new facilities coming online)
Growth in Insurance, Water/Sewage

6. **New / Old Business.** Guillermo will circulate the five questions that they send to the deans in advance if anyone has questions to add please sent them to Guillermo.

7. **Adjourn.** The committee adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.

The next FPPC meeting will be February 6, 2023, from 2:00 to 3:30 on Teams.