

## **Faculty Budget Committee Annual Report 2001 – 2002**

The members of the Budget Committee for 2001 – 2002 were: Robert A. Leitch (Chairman), David Berube, Dan Feldman, John Freeman, Dan Sabia, Caroline Strobel, Jerry Wallulis, and Rob Wilcox.

In our role as an advisory committee, we met at least once a month to review university budget issues with the Provost, Jerry Odom, and with Rick Kelly and/or Bill Bragdon. At these meetings we provided faculty input on the implications of a variety of budget issues. We believe our input was considered.

In particular, we studied the budget implications of the Strategic Directions Initiatives (SDI). This focused on Value Centered Management (VCM). Like the Senate, we read the supporting material and discussed the pros and cons of the recommendations of the committee regarding VCM. A sampling of the issues we discussed were:

- The link between SDI recommendations and the goals of the university.
- Competing demands for funds mentioned in the SDI like graduate stipends, scholarships, and the Honors College.
- Sources of funds for new initiatives and scholarships.
- Allocation of resources such as: tuition and fees, research funds and state allocations,
- Relationships between revenues and resource allocation.
- Management information: VCM compared with current fund accounting and base line budgeting.
- Reorganization and potential efficiencies or inefficiencies.
- Implementation issues such as: holding units harmless, ensuring that units will continue to offer required courses to satisfy degree requirements of other units, the impact on cross college interdisciplinary activities and the Honors College, duplication of courses, and the protection of small programs.
- Building an infrastructure for research.
- Role of Budget Committee in the implementation and monitoring of VCM.

Several members of the Budget Committee are serving on the VCM implementation committees to add faculty input to the process.

The Budget Committee also addressed faculty staff ratios this year at the request of the Faculty Senate. We found the following ratios for academic units:

- Personnel 67% faculty 33% staff
- Dollars 80% Faculty 20% Staff

Our committee also succeeded in getting this issue on the agenda for the annual academic unit strategic planning process. The result was that most of the academic units outlined initiatives to move toward more favorable faculty staff ratios. During this process, we uncovered some classification problems, which may require a new human resource staff classification to eliminate some distortion in the ratios. We have also asked the Provost's office to track these ratios over time to see if progress is being made.

The Budget Committee also reviewed the Strategic Plans for all the academic units. We met and discussed the budget issues in many of these plans with the Provost. A sampling of these issues included: budget problems, reorganization and consolidation, faculty staff ratios, enrollment management, course duplication, and instructional needs. In addition, at least one member of the Budget Committee was present during the University Budget Hearings with the President.