

Budget Council Minutes

April 27, 2021

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

WebEx

Members:

Terry Leist	Robert Mokwa	Chris Kearns	Michael Trotter
Kim Obbink	Mark Ranalli	Bradford Watson	Jason Carter
Chris Fastnow	Craig Woolard	Tia Brown	Matt Bissett
Conner McCollum			

Guests:

Megan Lasso – Budget Office, Mackenzie Seeley – Budget Office, Brianna Bos – Budget Office, Brittany Thompson – Budget Office, Caroline Roeder (proxy for Matt Bissett) – ASMSU

Absentees: Matt Bissett, Jason Carter, Conner McCollum, Bob Mokwa, Mark Ranalli, Michael Trotter

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Leist.

II. Approval of Minutes

The March 23, 2021 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

III. University Information / Announcements

- a. We made it through an unimaginable academic year!
- b. Upcoming Board of Regents meeting May 26-27 – tuition and fees will be a big item

IV. Action Items

a. VOTE: Sophomore Surge

1. Woolard motioned to continue \$120,000 OTO funding, Fastnow seconded
2. Approved – 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

b. VOTE: MSU Debut

1. Discussion
 - No funding in FY21 (due to COVID) and no submittal of MSU Debut in President's Strategic Funding Process for FY22 due to uncertainties related to COVID
 - Budget Council can recommend support for FY22 now that we know this fall will be more normal.
 - No formal request has been made for this budget year, but the Division of Student Success informally requested to carry over the unused budget from last year.
 - Fall 2021 enrollment estimates are strong, so MSU Debut would be important.
 - Fall 2020 class missed the MSU Debut experience – any discussion around a Debut#2 for this class?
 - Need to recruit three cohorts of students: Fall 2020 class, Spring 2021 class, and the incoming Fall 2021 class
 - This could be funded from vacancy savings from FY21.
 - Leist would like to draft a more formal proposal for Debut#2 (aimed at last year's students who missed out on MSU Debut) to be presented to the Provost and the President. He would like to "go big" to celebrate the return to normal.
 - This didn't come through the normal budget process this year, because the people running this didn't realize that classes would return to normal this fall, so they were planning on small events instead of the typical MSU Debut.

- Two components to this vote: \$34,329 for fall 2021 incoming students plus additional funding for other students who didn't receive the normal welcoming events (this would be a formal proposal that would come back up to VP Leist, the provost and the president).
2. Fastnow motioned to continue \$34,329 OTO funding
 3. Approved – 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention
 4. Fastnow motioned to support an additional proposal for funds for returning MSU students who didn't get the typical welcome experience last fall, including an even magnified event.
 5. Returning sophomores may have some social structure already in place, so need to consider that and make an effort to capture groups also when planning Debut#2 events.
 6. Not necessary to have a formal vote on this, but proposal needs to be developed quickly.

V. Public Comment / Member Feedback

None

VI. Informational Items

a. President's Strategic Funding Processes – Megan Lasso

- Notifications for PSFP went out two weeks ago.
- Will move to an every-other-year cycle and will fund OTO two years if necessary. Going forward, departments will have to ask for double the amount or specify an amount for two years rather than one year. This will provide an opportunity to consider institutional investments.
- Exceptions to the two-year funding model are academic extra sections, which are decided on a semester-by-semester basis depending on need.
- Overview of where money went –
% of base funding approved based on Strategic Plan goals:
 - 6.3% went to Discovery 2.1
 - 40.3% went to Engagement 3.3
 - 35.4 % went to Learning 1.1
 - 18% went to Strategic Plan goals that were not listed as the top 3 goals for this cycle% of one-time-only (OTO) funding approved based on Strategic Plan goals:
 - 13.74% went to Discovery 2.1
 - 5.16% went to Discovery 2.2
 - 0.34% went to Engagement 3.1
 - 15.0% went to Engagement 3.3
 - 55.19% went to Learning 1.1
 - 10.58% went to Other Strategic Plan goals

b. Fall 2021 Enrollment – Chris Fastnow

- Two populations are tracked to predict fall enrollment:
 1. Indicators for continuing students and students in transient status: Pre-enrollment, "intent to return" forms
 2. Indicators for incoming students: admission applications, housing applications, scholarship acceptances, waiver acceptances, orientation sign-up
- Looks like enrollment will be well ahead of last year (but confidence intervals are wide right now)
- Distribution of students will be different
- 15 credits each semester for 8 semesters are required to graduate in four years
- Number of credits students took was lower last year.
- One of the biggest challenges for freshman last year was housing (for on-campus students – not being able to move around; for off-campus students – not as motivated to participate in on-line classes).
- If student numbers increase, what about the hiring moratorium and the lead-time required to hire tenure-track faculty? For freshman and sophomore courses, more sections can be added, and

nontenure-track faculty can be hired. Tenure-track hiring is based on trends in academic programs and not incoming class size.

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 12, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.