

University Senate Budget Committee (SBC)

Annual report to the University Senate 2020-2021

This report reflects activities of the Senate Budget Committee in 2020-2021 AY

Charge and Responsibilities of Senate Budget Committee:

Defined by UO Senate Bylaws:

5.4 The SBC shall consist of eight members from the Senate constituencies, serving staggered three-year terms. At least six shall be tenured faculty members. Four members, one of whom may be from any Senate constituency, shall be appointed by the Senate President after consultation with the Senate Executive Committee. Four members shall be elected by the Senate from among its regular voting members, three of whom should be tenured faculty members. Members may be re-appointed or re-elected without term limits. Appointments, nominations and elections may be done electronically and shall ensure that new SBC members are in place at least two weeks before the Fall term starts, and that the composition of the SBC meets the above requirements. New appointments or elections shall occur if a position becomes vacant. The Senate President shall be an ex-officio voting member of the Senate Budget Committee during his/her term of office. The University President and Provost shall be ex-officio non-voting members of the committee and each may designate administration members to accompany and/or represent them. The University President and members of the Administration shall keep the committee informed of actions impacting the University's budget by the Governor, the Legislature, The University of Oregon's governing board and the UO Foundation and other organizations and individuals. The Senate Budget Committee shall choose its own chair from its membership. One Senate member shall be chosen by the SBC to serve as Senate Liaison, charged with keeping the Senate regularly informed about SBC meetings and agendas, and presenting a written report to the Senate annually. The Committee may establish working sub-committees.

Senate motion US13/14-14 states that the Senate expects that the University administration shall ensure that all Administrative Advisory Groups or similar bodies appointed to advise the administration on budgetary policy and long-term financial strategies include at least one elected member of the SBC.

Charge: "The Senate Budget Committee is charged with informing itself and the University Community about University financial matters. It shall advise the University President, other University administrators, the Senate President, the Senate and the University Community on budgetary policy and long-term financial strategies. The University Administration shall provide all financial information requested by the Committee in a timely fashion. The Budget Committee may initiate the study of financial issues. The Senate Budget Committee shall make recommendations to the Senate for Senate action."

Membership: Elliot Berkman (Senate President); Gina Biancarosa (Special Education); Krista Chronister (Counseling Psychology); Robin Clement (Accounting); Hans Dreyer (Human Physiology); Ali Emami (Finance, Chair); Renee Irvin (PPM); Bruce McGough (Economics); Keaton Miller (Economics); Patrick Phillips (Provost); Mike Schill (University President).

1. Introduction

The SBC serves dual roles. First, we provide a sounding board for the Finance and Administration office. We agreed that we are available to be helpful to the UO Finance and Administration and will respect the requests of the administration to maintain confidentiality of the information provided to us in the role of sounding board. We also agreed that our participation in that process should be conveyed to the UO Community in a manner consistent with this role. Hence, the role of this committee is to receive information and offer *ad hoc* reaction to it, but our involvement does not provide any sense of approval of administrative decisions.

In our second role, we serve ready to fulfill our charge from the Senate to help provide a better understanding of important financial issues that affect the university. This role will have a continuing reporting/educational component and a special projects component.

- a) The continuing reporting / educational component may include participation in in Senate or University Town Hall meetings for educating the university community on financial matters, and a regular report to the Senate on the budget with explanations of the budget model under which we operate.
- b) The special projects component of our charge would include in-depth projects and reports, most likely carried out by specialized sub-committees, to study and make recommendations on particularly important budget related campus issues.
 - i. We envision that we will select these types of projects in consultation with the Senate President.
 - ii. These projects will hold relevant information in confidence until projects are complete and approved by the SBC for distribution.
 - iii. The selection of subcommittees to carry out these projects will be coordinated by the SBC and may include members from outside of the SBC to ensure that appropriate expertise is represented on the subcommittee.

2. SBC activities in 2020-2021 Academic Year included:

A. **November 12, 2020 Meeting:**

- I. Reviewed, finalized and approved the SBC's Annual Report for FY 2018-2019
- II. Elected Chair (Ali Emami)
- III. Discussions and updates from university leaders

III.1 Enrolment: VP Roger Thompson

- Current enrolments: Residents, Nonresidents, Foreign students
- Winter, Spring and Fall 2021 forecasts.
- Foreign student enrolments: Possibility of short-term enrollments without residing in U.S.

III.2 University Financials: VP Jamie Moffitt

- Reports from EVP Jamie Moffitt on 2020-2021 University Budget Issues:
- Prospects for 2020-2021 budget, potential tuitions and fees changes, review budget reports submitted to the UO Board of Trustees.
- Cost changes (cost savings and cost additions) due to Covid-19.
- Revenue changes (savings and additions) due to Covid-19.
- State and federal contributions.
- Anticipated deficit or surplus.
- Plans and decisions for a budgetary backup reserve account.

III.3 University Research: VP Cass Moseley

- Discuss Research Funding 2020-2021: Discuss research funding, grants and activities for both faculty and graduate research for 2020-2021.

III.4 State of the University 2020-2021: Provost Patrick Phillips

- Structural changes, future of higher education, university of Oregon in 2021 and beyond.
- Hiring and freeze, promotions, PhD admissions, plans for budgetary shortfall risk managements.

Following the above presentations, the SBC chair asked the administration how the SBC can help advising the University President and administration about university financial matters, including budgetary policies and decisions, and long-term financial strategies?

Provost Phillips requested if the SBC could form a subcommittee to investigate the course-buyouts related to external funds. Elliot Berkman, the Senate President supported the idea and asked the SBC to form the subcommittee and provide the report to the Senate and Provost.

IV. The SBC chair recommended members to visit and study the following useful sources to enhance their familiarities with the University budget and financial reports.

IV.1 University Overview; Office of Institutional Research

<https://ir.uoregon.edu/>

IV.2 Financial Statement Definitions:

<https://ba.uoregon.edu/content/financial-statements-definitions>

IV.3 Auxiliaries:

<https://ba.uoregon.edu/content/auxiliaries>

IV.4 F20 Budget:

https://pages.uoregon.edu/baoforms/bao_drupal_6/sites/brp.uoregon.edu/files/brp/reports_analysis/FY20%20Budget%20Expenditure%20Report%20Final%20PDF.pdf

IV.5 Annual Financial Report F19 Single Audit:

https://pages.uoregon.edu/baoforms/bao_drupal_6/sites/ba.uoregon.edu/files/fy2019UOafs.pdf

IV.6 Financial Report Unaudited F20:

https://pages.uoregon.edu/baoforms/bao_drupal_6/sites/ba.uoregon.edu/files/fy20qtr4longform.pdf

IV.7 Revenues and Expenditures 2002-2029:

<https://ir.uoregon.edu/expenditures>

B. January 6, 2021 Meeting

- I. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss how SBC could provide the report on the course-buyouts related to researches funded by the external funds. The committee invited VP Brad Shelton to discuss various considerations that go into analyzing external course buyouts and understanding the related incentives.
- II. We formed a subcommittee to analyze the course buyouts related to external funds across the campus.

C. April 13, 2021 Internal Meeting

- I. The purpose of this meeting was to have an initial conversation with the University's Research Office about the University's externally-funded course buyouts. This meeting provided a foundation for our future meeting(s) with Research Office for gathering required data and information to accomplish our charge of providing suggestions for University's course release practices.
- II. In this meeting our guests, Dr. Cassandra Mosely VP for Research and Innovation and Dr. Jim Slattery Associate VP for Research Operations discussed and educated us on grant-funded course buyouts in details.

D. April 20, 2021 Meeting

- I. The purpose of this meeting was to explore potential proposals/suggestions/ policies/models on external fund and course-buyouts. The committee was interested in reviewing possible alternative models that the Provost Office is currently evaluating for adoption. In this meeting, again, we invited Dr. Moseley and Dr. Slattery from the University's Research Office to discuss such potential approaches. This

meeting helped the SBC in providing a comprehensive report on course-buyouts for the Senate and the Provost Office.

E. May 26, 2021 Meeting

I. We invited Provost Patrick Phillips, VPF Jamie Moffitt, EVP Brad Shelton, and AVP Rocco Luiere to discuss the current University's various budgetary decisions (changes) aimed at improving the University's accounting and financial practices.

II. Discussion on necessities and Benefits from Continuous Budgetary Actions: Provost Phillips discussed what necessitate changes, modification or cleanups of budget time to time, and how the University as a whole can benefit from it.

III. VP Brad Shelton and Rocco Luiere present current various budget cleanup actions, all related to better accounting and financial management practices.

IV. VPF Jamie Moffitt discusses the institutional impacts of budgetary adjustments.

F. SBC Report September 30, 2021

On September 30th, 2021, the Senate Budget Sub-Committee presented its report on external grant course –buyouts to the Senate and to the office of the provost. This report is titled: “**The Existing Procedures for External Grant Course -Buyouts for Tenure-Track Faculty at the University of Oregon**” authored by the Senate Budget Sub-Committee: Gina Biancarosa (Special Education), Ali Emami (Finance), and Keaton Miller (Economics).

We thank Jamie Moffitt, Cass Moseley, Patrick Phillips, Roger Thompson, Brad Shelton, Jim Slattery, and Brady Nittmann for their guidance, suggestions, hard work and participation that allows the SBC to function. Thanks also to Elliot Berkman, outgoing Senate President, for his work with the SBC.