

BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

October 28, 2016 3 PM Netzer 310

In attendance: Committee Chair Thomàs Sakoulas, Paul Adamo, Frank Chambers, Todd Foreman, Paul French, Bill Harclerod, Michael Koch, Leo Mackey, Laura Munteanu Rhea Nowak, Julie Piscitello, Tran Trang, and Susan Turell along with President Kleniewski

President's Welcome

President Nancy Kleniewski thanked the members of the Budget Advisory Council and reiterated the importance of their work.

Chair's Report

Thomàs Sakoulas reported that he will be presenting a budget update to the College Senate on Monday October 21, 2106.

Reserve Update

Todd articulated the difference between "Recurring Reserve" (operating surplus/deficit) for unanticipated expenses) and "One-time Reserve" (non-replenishable). Currently SUNY Oneonta's recurring reserve is at 6-percent, the goal is 15-percent. Todd will be sending out a communication to the campus regarding the reserve, enrollment and how it relates to the reserve, and request feedback on how to accomplish our goal. [Campus Reserve Summary](#)

Campus Communication

Todd asked for feedback on the campus communication he will be sending out on November 1st. He wanted to assure he was stating his message clearly. The committee liked the tone but suggested revisions (which were made) to the section referring to retention, timetable and actions.

Feedback from Campus Community

Thomàs informed the group that he received feedback from a member of the campus community after his initial memo to the campus when he became the BAC Chair. The individual was concerned about the workers working the night shift and felt that they should be paid a higher wage. Todd stated that the state sets the rate of these types of positions and the college has no control over it. However, he did state that they do get paid a night differential.

The individual also felt that an across the board raise should be considered. Unfortunately, the college is not in a position to do this.

Thomas will answer the email with the information he has learned.

What can we stop doing to generate savings?

Ideas/Questions that came about included the following:

- Student workers covering the desk should be reduced because sometimes there are multiple students on the same shift.
- Is the res hall host positions necessary or can these duties be switched to RAs.
- Instead of paper towels – can the college switch solely to hand dryers?
- Are the Office Assistant positions in Res Halls necessary?

Committee Feedback:

- Some staff have indicated they would be interested in taking a pay cut to be on a 10 month or 11 month cycle.
- Could StAR funding be more pointed towards students? Also look at the continuing cost of a StAR grant after the initial funding.
- How important is it to keep our profile? Should we consider lowering our threshold?
- Should we consider a “Plan A” and “Plan B.” Plan A would be to increase enrollment, retain students, etc. Plan B would be to lower our threshold and accept students we traditionally would not have.
- Consider the cost of starting a new program and the tuition coming in (tuition is the same no matter the cost of the class)
- Build a stronger connection to community colleges particularly through faculty.
- Consider doing orientation for transfer students coming from community colleges at the college they are attending rather than requiring them to come here for orientation.
- Retention and recruitment are the key elements
- There are not enough targeted courses for some students making it hard to retain them.
- Some of the community college transfers are not coming in at the level they need to be at. Perhaps there should be a special orientation for transfer students.

Good of the Order

Thomàs stated that he would like to keep “Savings” as a permanent agenda item.

Dr. Kleniewski stated that she was very impressed with the informative ideas that came out of this meeting and the level of commitment of the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled November 18, 2016 at 2 p.m. in Netzer 310.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura M. Emmett
Executive Assistant
Finance and Administration