

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Finance Committee

Campus Governance

3-5-2020

Finance minutes 03/05/2020

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UMM FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

3-5-20

Members Present: Brad Deane, Roger Rose, Jon Anderson, Mary Elizabeth Bezanson, Michael Korth, Angela Anderson, Marie Hagen, Naomi Skulan, Juan Vasquez Garcia, Maddie Happ, Arne Kildegaard, Angela Hume, Bryan Herrmann

Others Present: Jessica Broekemeier, Melissa Wrobleski

Agenda:

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the 2/20/2020 Finance Committee meeting were approved.

II. Subcommittee follow-up: disseminating data to students (Arne, Maddie, Roger)

Maddie said that they propose having a 4-page packet available containing information students want to know. The top four topics that would be included in this packet include:

1. What tuition goes to
2. How the University of Minnesota, Morris is funded
3. How costs have changed over time
4. How financial aid is funded

She also said there should be an introduction to the packet that includes information on green, yellow, and red money. Mary Elizabeth asked how they came up with these four topics, and how they know students would like this information. Maddie replied that this is based on an MCSA forum, as well as receiving these questions from multiple students the most. Roger also noted that information from Brian Burnett's presentation and the databook would be useful to include. Brad asked if students understand the fee structure. Maddie thought there should be fee info included in the packet as well. .

Mary Elizabeth said that her advertising class looks at what other schools give prospective students, and noted in a document that was reviewed there is a textbox showing what school costs. There is tuition, room and board, books, and other items. This example showed a high total amount, but made sure to show what most students receive in rewards. She thought this is important to show information like this for the University of Minnesota, Morris. Roger

added that it would also be important to show how much books have gone up over the past years. Mary Elizabeth also added that with Shopko gone, there is no place to buy cheaper notebooks and other supplies in Morris. She felt this is also important information that should be projected. Naomi said that the Library is working on more affordable course content with MCSA and will send that information to the Finance Committee. Mary Elizabeth also noted that USC gives free tuition if a family makes under a certain income. Bryan added that the University of Minnesota does this as well, but it is based on adjusted gross income. Roger also thought that some information should be discussed and framed when showing the comparison with other schools. He noted that the information projected may be controversial with other University of Minnesota schools. He thought it would be beneficial to have a vetting process and the information should be pre-approved by the Marketing and/or Finance Departments.

Brad asked if there was a timeline for this packet to be completed. Roger thought that there can be a draft provided at the next Finance Committee meeting (April 2). Mary Elizabeth added that she'd like this information for her students to use on their education campaign and would like that first draft. Brad said that maybe a vetting process could be done before the meeting, and asked who should review the packet. Bryan said he would, and that Marketing should also so the information is consistent across departments.

III. Budget compact meeting review

Bryan said Morris met with Chris Cramer, Brian Burnett, Lawrence Parson (Assistant Budget Director), Karen Hanson, and Michael Volna. The group meets with 50+ other units within the University of Minnesota system. Morris presented material through PowerPoint and a booklet. He said there were questions on enrollment and projections as well as discussion on tuition. Morris presented a 1.5% tuition increase, and after the meeting will submit a 1.75% increase request. This request is a suggestion to the Regents, who actually decide what the tuition increase will be. Mary Elizabeth asked what the difference would be from the 1.5% to 1.75% increase. Melissa said that it would be less than \$30,000. Marie asked if this increase would be for in state or out of state. Bryan said it will include all tuition rates. Mary Elizabeth asked if Crookston will ask for a 1.75% increase as well. Bryan said Crookston hadn't had their meeting yet, and mentioned that Crookston is already cheaper

because there is more competition with North Dakota schools. Brad asked if Bryan was able to read what the budget five's thoughts were at the meeting. Bryan said that he thought the mood was as expected with the information that was provided. He said that he had talked to Brian Burnett before the meeting so the information wasn't a surprise. Bryan said that the information provided is always very clear and they understood Morris' request. He noted that Brian Burnett had asked a lot of questions. Bryan said the purpose of his questions were to inform the other members at the meeting. Bryan said there were two other requests from Morris at the Budget Compact meeting.

The first request was for \$80,000 in one time money for coordinating mental health efforts (such as Let's Talk and Tele psychiatry). He said in FY18, money was given for this as well. Mary Elizabeth asked if students know of these services. Maddie said she was unaware of it. Bryan said that students have to seek a counselor first before being recommended to a psychiatrist. Angela Hume mentioned that students have to self-advocate a lot to get access to a psychiatrist. Bryan said students have used this and it has been successful. Mary Elizabeth added that we should make this more known to students.

The second request was money for a softball complex remodel. Baseball is moving to Chizek Field which is very nice. The softball field is currently unsafe. The fences aren't high enough for foul balls. Estimates were gathered to raise the fencing and fix the outfield that total around \$100,000 for the updates for safe play. The softball field in this scenario would still be very close to the road. The high school also has issues with their softball field. The University of Minnesota, Morris proposed a plan to the school district for a new complex including fields, bathrooms, parking, and a press box. The school district said they would be behind it if the city is behind it as well. The city also agreed, so costs would be shared three ways. The total projected cost for this shared facility is about \$1.3 million. The project is designed in phases so only portions might be completed as it moves forward. There is an aggressive timeline for this which would start in the summer. Mary Elizabeth asked how much would be the University's cost. Bryan said it would be around \$250,000, but could reach \$350,000. Mary Elizabeth noted that the high school currently has better fields than colleges. Bryan agreed, and said the main thing for this plan is for safety purposes. Arne mentioned that funding would be received through one-time money and asked if this would increase maintenance costs.

Bryan said it wouldn't really cost more in maintenance. The University already mows the current softball fields, and there would be a better drainage system so there may be less maintenance in the years to come. The restrooms would have more maintenance, but there would be a joint effort from the city and school as well. Arne asked if plumbing would need to be run through. Bryan replied that sewer and water lines are nearby so that wouldn't be a large cost. Mary Elizabeth added that public schools should want this because they are not in Title IX compliance. Arne added that this could bring more people to campus in some way as well. Bryan also said that the city can benefit with a good softball complex as well for people to visit.

IV. IT maintenance charges

Bryan provided a document and said that they are still finalizing dollars. This shows a breakdown and charge for each department for the number of ports. In the past, each department has been charged \$100/year per port. This is time consuming to disburse this amount just to take it back, and doesn't make sense to do anymore to charge on the number of ports. For example, Science and Math pay for 63 ports, but have 271 devices. The purpose of changing this is to streamline the process so the number of transfers and billing are reduced. Mary Elizabeth asked if this effects students. Bryan said that this does not affect the students. Michael added that computers in classrooms are not considered billable. He wondered why we pay for wired connections and not Wi-Fi, and agreed with making this change.

V. Reallocation benchmark

Bryan handed out a document showing the reallocation benchmark tracking from past years. This document is categorized by benchmark category. It was presented at the Budget Compact meeting to show newer members what cuts Morris has made in salary and fringe from FY14-FY21. This portion shows the cuts, but doesn't include the mandatory salary and fringe increases. Roger noted that looking at the FY15 total O&M Compensation, the reduction shows 18% but it doesn't appear like that with those mandatory increases. Arne asked what is included in leadership and oversight. Bryan said that it is the Director role and above. Melissa added that the proposed FY21 amount is positive as it includes the new transfer support counselor position. Bryan added that some central money will be allocated towards that. Jon asked what it would take to produce a document for other units such as Duluth or

Crookston, and if this information arose centrally. Bryan said there isn't this much detail centrally. Michael added that central shows the net information. Angela asked if all categories includes FY14-21. Bryan replied yes, and there just weren't any cuts in FY14-FY17 for the direct mission category. Mary Elizabeth asked if we could see a percentage comparison with Duluth after they make their cuts this coming year. Angela asked where the contract faculty falls under. Bryan said that some fall under direct mission (term faculty members), and some fall under mission support.

VI. Scheduling plans for remaining meetings

Brad passed out a document showing the 3 remaining meeting dates as well as 5 potential topics. He noted that the second topic (study and review of institutional data) may need a potential subcommittee. He also said that the third topic (meeting with Melissa Bert on financial elements of SEM) may not be ready to be discussed. Mary Elizabeth added that all of that information needs to go through campus and will still take a considerable amount of time. Roger added that it may be beneficial to ask Stan Henderson and Cedric Howard from AACRAO on how other schools are addressing costs. Mary Elizabeth said another potential topic should be reviewing the constitutional mandate of our committee. Angela Hume suggested we should review the constitutional mandate before meeting with the chancellor to help figure out how to proceed with the other topics. Bryan thought the committee should see if the Chancellor is available first for one of our committee meetings. Brad said that due to time restraints that this conversation will need to be continued through email.

The meeting was adjourned.