

Budget Council Minutes
January 12, 2022
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Montana Room, Norm Asbjornson Hall room 321

Members:

Terry Leist	Robert Mokwa	Chris Kearns	Ryan Knutson
Kim Obbink	Dan Miller	Michael Brody	Jason Carter
Chris Fastnow	Craig Woolard	Katy Owens	Isaac Birdwell
Conner McCollum			

Guests:

Megan Lasso – Budget Office, Leslie Schroeder (admin support)

Absentees: Katy Owens

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Leist.

II. Approval of Minutes

The October 12, 2022, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

III. University Information/Announcements

- a. Megan Lasso was recently promoted to Chief Budget Officer.
- b. Board of Regents meetings (November and January) updates
 - January items – \$1.6M for planning and design for Museum of the Rockies expansion, exception on 20-year land lease for future hotel on campus
 - November items – lease expansion for Nopper Building, land lease for third party photonics/optics company, authority for maintenance and repair of campus parking lots and streets, SUB roof repairs, fire alarm maintenance, HVAC for AJMJ, Renne improvements
- c. FCS Championship game in Frisco, TX
 - Fan support for players was unbelievable, despite final score
 - Amazing experience
- d. 'Cat-Griz Basketball
 - Men's team beat the Griz
 - Women's 'Cat-Griz game rescheduled due to COVID protocols

IV. Action Items

- a. Standard Operating Agreement
 - Proposed changes include updating the role of Budget Council (BC), meeting quarterly rather than monthly, and a few other minor revisions
 - VOTE: Knutson motioned to approve the changes, no discussion, unanimous approval (no abstentions)

V. Public Comment/Member Feedback

- a. Preliminary Carnegie R1 Status
 - Scored well on research expenditures, but lag on research doctorates
 - Carter and Fastnow willing to present to Budget Council, if there is interest

VI. Training and/or Data Review

- a. Strategic Investment Discussion – *Megan Lasso, Budget Director*
- Purpose of discussion is to gather feedback around areas MSU ought to think about making investments
 - In the past, the budgeting process has been 2% reallocation and a decentralized call for investments; going forward, we will pause every other year to focus on broad institutional investments
 - What are the big priorities you'd like Megan and Terry to bring to the President?
 - Recruitment needs better outreach and presence to create the right inroads to communities
 - Invest in outreach to communities of color; reach out to families rather than just students
 - How do we get student cohorts to imagine themselves as successful at MSU? How do we support those students once they are here? MSU is least successful at retaining students between year one and year two. Kearns – Divide this up into pipeline and support.
 - Brody – general awareness on part of faculty is necessary here; can someone come to Faculty Senate to discuss this?
 - Woolard – immediate need in graduate program; tapped out on ability to recruit and retain; not competitive from stipend standpoint; more targeted recruitment approach would help at the graduate level, as would bridge funding; not sure how to address at the undergraduate level
 - Obbink –
 1. Outreach & Engagement Council provides many outreach opportunities, but people don't tap into them enough; O&E has partnerships with groups that we need to tap into, especially tribal; tribal leaders are a great resource
 2. Are there better ways to think about mental health for faculty, staff, and students?
 3. Invest in quality-of-life issues, such as salaries and childcare
 - Goal 2.4 is about elevating research standards; research expenditures will exceed \$200M this year but how does that positively impact our grad students?
 1. Research Council feedback – 33% increase in number of grad students in past two years, but how do we recruit better grad students and how do we retain them? Research-based graduate degrees (not just PhDs)
 2. Brody – non-face-to-face delivery may help us meet students where they are; virtual advising would save money and also address sustainability goal by reducing carbon emissions; complex considerations around environment and climate
 3. Carter – MSU should provide both types of learning: face-to-face and online; lots of growth potential in the south and Hispanic populations
 4. McCollum – transparency on actual cost to come to MSU; actionable cost is higher than advertised; grants don't cover all the costs
 5. Obbink – OCHE will host Extended Learning Institute April 7-8 in Butte; topic is designing high-quality online teaching
 6. Brody – OCHE looking at remote delivery system for entire MUS; first meeting is today
- b. Budget Council should consider presenting at Research Council and Faculty Senate in the near future.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2022, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in 10 Montana Hall (President's Conference Room)