

## **Senate University Budget Committee**

### **2015-16 Annual Report to the University Senate**

**Committee Charge.** This committee shall review the planning, negotiation, and allocation of the University operating, capital, and other budgets, the process of making budgetary and financial decisions and the determination of priorities among academic and other programs having financial implications. This committee may recommend any desirable expressions of Senate opinion on these matters. The committee shall include two undergraduate students and one graduate student.

**Committee Members 2015-16.** \*Suresh Nair, Chair, Business; \*Carol Atkinson-Palombo, Geography; \*Rajeev Bansal, Engineering; \*Bontly, Tom, Philosophy; \*Nancy Bull, CAHNR; \*Ellen Carillo, English; \*Eleni Coundouriotis, English; \*Kelly Dennis, Fine Arts; \*Joe Loturco, Physiology & Neurobiology; \*Paula McCauley, Nursing; \*Lisa Sanchez, English; \*Zeki Simsek, Business; \*Stephanie Sponzo, USG; Angela Brightly, Waterbury Campus; Edward Leardi, USG; Philip Mannheim, Physics; James Marsden, Business; Jeanne Martin, Avery Point Campus; Corey O'Brien, Student Union; Katrina Spencer, Budget Office (Ex-Officio Member); Daniel Stolzenberg, Education;

(\*Senate Member 2015/2016)

#### **Overview of the committee's business in 2015-16:**

The Senate University Budget Committee met 5 times during the year. Two additional meetings were canceled due to weather and a personal emergency of the guest.

**10/1/2015 Meeting:** As in past years, the committee's first meeting featured an overview of the University's financial situation and also the faculty hiring plan, provided by Budget Director Katrina Spencer. She updated the FY15 budget and gave an overview of the FY16 budget. She also spoke about the new fringe benefit rates. FY15 ended with a small surplus, the budget was balanced despite state rescissions. She talked about uncertainties around NextGenCT operational funding, and collective bargaining. She mentioned that fringe benefits expenses are almost 22% of the budget, and the rates are rising due to hybrid retirement plan conversions. Salaries and fringes are expected to be 64% of the operating budget in FY16.

**11/12/2015 Meeting:** The second meeting of the committee was with Provost Mun Choi who provided information on the budget situation. He talked about a net ~260 new hires in the past 6 years (436 minus 175 retirees), and an additional about 150 in-residence full time teaching faculty. The Provost gave an update on the Academic Plan competition, including FMRI investment for Big Brain, Hartford campus and Library funding was discussed.

**1/25/2016 Meeting:** The third meeting of the committee was with Martha Bedard, Vice Provost for University Libraries. She discussed the budget situation and shared budget numbers. He updated the committee on the initial review done last year to decrease the footprint of collections, and free up space. She explained bundle contracts with publishers. There was quite a bit of discussion on how journal/material usage was measured.

**2/19/2016 Meeting:** The fourth meeting of the committee was with Wayne Locust, Vice President, Enrollment Planning and Management. He mentioned that due to no additional operating funds and only some block grants being available, the admission numbers are going to stay the same for Fall 2016 as Fall 2015. He gave us information on application trends, applicant mix, etc. He made a case for increasing scholarships.

**3/29/2016 Meeting:** The fifth meeting of the committee was with Scott Jordan, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. He highlighted that the budget situation at the State is serious. The additional cuts since mid-March was \$18 million for UConn and an additional \$6 million for UCHC. He talked about shortfall for even capital projects, in addition to cuts in operating fund support. He discussed the change in management of the Co-op and the process used to pick a new vendor. There was discussion on the subsidy provided to athletics.

Respectfully submitted,

Suresh Nair, 2015-16 Chair, on behalf of the Senate University Budget Committee