

## SENATE UNIVERSITY BUDGET COMMITTEE 2016-17

### 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

\*Carol Atkinson-Palombo, Chair, Geography; \*Rajeev Bansal, School of Engineering; \*Steven Batt, University Libraries; \*Nancy Bull, CAHNR; \*Eleni Coundouriotis, English; \*Kelly Dennis, School of Fine Arts; \*Joe Loturco, Physiology & Neurobiology; \*Philip Mannheim, Physics; \*Paula McCauley, School of Nursing; \*Jeffrey McCutcheon, School of Engineering; \*Suresh Nair, School of Business; Angela Brightly, Waterbury Campus; Melanie Klimjack, Graduate Student Senate; Devinaa Mangal, Undergraduate Student Government; James Marsden, School of Business; Jeanne Martin, Avery Point Campus; Dylan Nenadal, Undergraduate Student Government; Corey O'Brien, Student Union; Katrina Spencer, Budget Office (Ex-Officio Member); Daniel Stolzenberg, School of Education; Judith Thorpe, Art & Art History (\*Senate Member 2016/2017 )

#### OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S BUSINESS IN 2016-17

The Senate University Budget Committee met seven times during the year.

10/17/2016 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 FY16 budget and gave an overview of the FY17 budget. She also spoke about the new fringe benefit rates. The general message was that the State was suffering from quite considerable budget challenges and that UConn would be facing cuts in its appropriation going forward.

11/1/16 Meeting: Jeff Seeman, Charlie Eaton, and Mike Glasgow presented data on "The High Cost of Doing Research at UConn" that highlighted how challenging the combination of high fringe rates and overhead are to funded research. The challenges presented are particularly acute for those receiving funding from granting agencies that include overhead in the overall amount of funded awarded (e.g. the NSF) compared to those who award that in addition (e.g. the NIH). Discussion took place about initiatives that could possibly reduce the cost of research. Given that the fringe rates are set by the state and overheads are determined at the federal level, the SUBC suggested that UConn could reconsider the charging of graduate student tuition to grants.

11/29/16 Meeting: General discussion about priorities for the Senate UBC: In this meeting, the Committee discussed what issues it would like to tackle in the academic year. The priorities were deemed to be the high cost of doing research at UConn and the growing subsidy to the Athletics Department.

02/15/17 Meeting: Data on subsidies to Athletics Departments around the country as well as expenditures for individual teams at UConn were shown at this meeting. The data provided a strong foundation for better understanding the national context for Athletics programs, as well as some of the specific history of UConn's engagement with the Big East conference.

03/27/17: Meeting with David Benedict, Director of Athletics. The purpose of this meeting was to obtain further clarification about the initial plan that Mr. Benedict had presented to the University Senate on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 that focused on initiatives to reduce the subsidy to Athletics going forward.

04/17/17: Meeting with the Committee to further discuss feedback from the meeting with the Director of Athletics and decide what follow-up may be required.

04/24/17: Meeting with the Committee to finalize a special report on "UConn's Subsidy to the Athletics Department" and to discuss wording for a resolution to the University Senate for inclusion in the May 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 agenda.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Atkinson-Palombo, 2016-17 Chair, on behalf of the Senate University Budget Committee

25<sup>th</sup> April 2017