

Budget and Finance Committee
Western Kentucky University

Report to the University Senate

Date: January 5, 2015

From: Dr. Andrew West, Chair

The Budget and Finance Committee met on December 9, 2014 and submits the following agenda items for consideration to the University Senate:

The committee is working to identify priority agenda items moving forward. Items for consideration include:

- a. Response to any distribution of funds connected to faculty raises -- Have numbers, figures, faculty input, etc. in place should we need to put forward a response to any decisions by the Provost regarding raises (should money exist) and how any money might be distributed (ex. merit, time in service, across the board, etc.). Committee members will begin conversations with colleagues connected to these items.
- b. Funding faculty raises – Work to identify avenues for securing dollars for faculty raises without cannibalizing from other academic areas and without unnecessary false dichotomies (ex. money in our benefits or our salaries). Revisit the levels at benchmark institutions.
- c. Health plan – Investigate various issues connected to the current health plan, and possible changes that could be enacted in 2015-2016. Issues might include requesting transparency of health plan dollars (i.e., is the new plan saving the university money, is it costing faculty more, etc.), identify faculty views of the current health plan (ex. maybe put some items on the Faculty Welfare survey), and other information gathering that might help to support the benefits committee as “fresh eyes” or simply a source of support. Committee members will support the SEC in gathering feedback from faculty.
- d. Partnering (or supporting) the Faculty Welfare committee as they explore the issue of faculty liability insurance for field trips, study abroad, etc.