

# REPORT for the Budget & Finance Committee Meeting of September 5, 2024

The Budget & Finance Committee last met on April 11, 2024.

## 1) Meeting called to order: E. Kondratieff (3:45 pm).

### Attendees:

Eric Kondratieff, Chair (PCAL)  
Kurt Neelly (At-Large)  
Jeremy Maddox (OCSE)  
John Erickson (GFCB)  
Daniel Boamah (CHHS)  
Sean Kinder (Libraries)  
**Faculty Regent** Shane Spiller (non-voting)

### Absent:

Provost Bud Fischer (non-voting)

### Positions currently vacant:

CEBS, SGA, At-Large (x2)  
Alternates for all but CHHS

## 2) Chair Report – E. Kondratieff:

- a) Minutes from 04/11/2024 meeting – approved.

## 3) New Business:

- a) Introductions, new folks (skipped, no new members in attendance),
- b) New directions (Kondratieff)
  - i) Committee to examine WKU Salary Data 2024, highlight pay benchmarks
  - ii) Posed the question as to which issues the committee thinks it can or would like to tackle?
  - iii) Discussed potential college-level faculty budget committees in each college to meet with their respective deans for increased transparency of RAMP model and budget (see

## 4) Old Business – N/A

## 5) Faculty Regent – Shane Spiller:

- a) Discussed the Herald article about BOR's budget process - stands by his quotes in the article
- b) Discussed decision to vote against the budget in the June BOR budget meeting
  - i) Emphasis on signaling that we need funding.
- c) Discussed current **VSIP**
  - i) Noted that many Universities are not offering VSIPs.
  - ii) Questions to consider:
    - (1) What savings occurred with previous VSIP?
    - (2) What will happen to savings from this VSIP?
    - (3) What about the workload shuffle from VSIP? (its impact students in re: course availability, and redistributed workloads for remaining faculty)
- d) Discussion of three units that overspent
  - i) Athletics, Admissions, and College of Education
  - ii) Shared what Athletics presented about this:
    - (1) Timing issues on coach buyouts
    - (2) Payback plan in place
- e) Reiterated that under the RAMP model, college deans have the decision-making power re: budgets and spending. President Caboni and Provost Fischer have said that it's up to faculty to hold their deans accountable.
- f) Questions:
  - i) **Daniel Boamah to Shane Spiller**, stated his concerns about state appropriations for WKU dropping a lot in comparison to other schools

## REPORT for the Budget & Finance Committee Meeting of September 5, 2024

- ii) **Shane:**
    - (1) Stated normal state appropriations have stayed flat
    - (2) Noted that WKU's share of performance funding has declined as some Universities have chosen to game the system for money over mission.
  - iii) **Jeremy Maddox** re: Any data on retention numbers from UK?
  - iv) **Shane:** No data seen yet.
  - v) **Shane** emphasized some positive financial news for WKU: investing in buildings and state appropriations money for capital restoration (e.g., Cherry Hall).
  - vi) **Kurt Neelly** proposed that we should follow up and consider best path toward creation of college-level faculty (and staff?) budget committees in each college to meet with deans on budgetary matters to increase transparency.
- 6) **Provost Bud Fischer** (N/A; away at another meeting)
- 7) **Open Discussion:**
- a) **Shane:** Todd Stewart (Athletics) would like to visit with B/F committee again. To be set up for a future date (likely January 2025 BFC meeting)
- 8) **Motion to adjourn** (Jeremy Maddox) @ 5:01. Approved.