

REPORT for the Budget & Finance Committee Meeting of October 3, 2024

The Budget & Finance Committee last met on Sept. 5, 2024.

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

Attendees:

Eric Kondratieff, Chair (PCAL)
John Erickson (GFCB)
Jeremy Maddox (OCSE)
Sean Kinder (Libraries)
Faculty Regent Shane Spiller (non-voting)
Provost Bud Fischer (non-voting)

Absent:

Kurt Neelly (At-Large)
Daniel Boamah (CHHS)

Positions currently vacant:

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

2) Chair Report – Kondratieff:

a) Minutes from 09/05/2024 meeting – approved.

3) New Business / Old Business (revisiting topics brought up in prev. meeting)

a) Discussed setting up Budget Committees in each college:

- i) **Provost Fischer** suggests asking deans whether they are willing to discuss budget with us
- ii) **Kondratieff**: reiterated that admin has said faculty and staff need to hold Deans accountable; suggested that should each college have its own budget committee, one goal should be to create uniformity across colleges.
- iii) **Provost Fischer** will discuss this idea with the deans.
- iv) It was noted that we should make sure to consider the level of comfort faculty and staff have to ask the deans such questions.
(1) **Regent Spiller** mentioned a possible forum

b) Discussion on Current VSIP's

- i) **Kondratieff** contacted R. Domoney re: VSIP information; was referred back to Provost Fischer
- ii) **Provost Fischer**:
 - (1) Details on **previous VSIP**:
 - (a) 125 people took VSIP
 - (i) 52 Faculty
 - (ii) 73 Staff
 - (iii) Savings of \$12.4 Million
 1. \$6.2m went to the budget
 2. \$6.2m divided betw. SOF and Academic Affairs (\$3.2m for new faculty lines)
 - (2) Discusson on **current VSIP**
 - (a) **Kondratieff** asked about about workload shuffle from current VSIP, e.g., impact on students re: course availability and redistributed workloads for faculty and staff.
 - (b) **Provost Fischer** emphasized that the administration considered the classes on the Spring roster, when traditionally there are fewer students on campus.
 - (c) **Kondratieff**: Any idea where the \$ savings this will go? Faculty Lines?
 - (d) **Provost Fischer**: It will be divided up but how has not been decided. It depends on how many people take the VSIP. There are till 21 days for people to make a decision.
 - (e) **Kinder** to Provost Fischer: It seems some people knew about this VSIP and others didn't, could you elaborate?
 - (f) **Provost Fischer**: Was not pleased as no one should have known. The info was leaked and he is upset and sorry for it. The goal was for everyone to find out at the same time.

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- c) Possible Future speakers
 - i) **Kondratieff**: Regent Spiller has arranged that Todd Stewart, Director of Athletics, come in Jan.
 - ii) **Neelly** (not present) has also suggested Renaldo Domoney
 - iii) **Maddox** suggested that maybe the Deans could come speak
 - (1) **Provost Fischer** suggestef that the Deans Council might choose who to visit w/us
- 4) **Faculty Regent Shane Spiller**:
 - a) Next Board of Regents meeting on Oc. 8th; topic to be External Audit of WKU
- 5) **Provost Bud Fischer**
 - a) BEC met yesterday (Oct. 2).
 - i) **Maddox**: Has there been any action or decisions made concerning use of the current 2% raise pool for merit pay and cost of living? Is there a timeframe for the decision?
 - ii) **Provost Fischer**: BEC still working on its recommendation. BEC meets again in 2 weeks. More info will be available later in October after it has gone through HR (required).
- 6) **Open Discussion** (None)
- 7) **Motion to adjourn** (Maddox) @ 4:30. Approved.