

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
Budget/Finance Committee Meeting
December 15, 2006

Regents Present: Bob Storey, chair, Jim Roth, Jim Lagerberg, Nancy Paul, Ben Blair, Maggie Warren, Blanche Parks

Staff Present: Jerry Farley, Wanda Hill, Al Dickes, Chris Leach, Rhonda Thornburgh, Ron Wasserstein, Denise Ottinger, Tom Ellis, David Monical, Melodie Christal, Russ Jacobs

Student Present: Josh Shald, WSGA President

Minutes of the May 2, 2006 meeting were approved as distributed.

Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Planning Process -

- President Farley reviewed the preliminary FY 2008 budget planning calendar. He said the committee will discuss salary and wage recommendations at the January 11 meeting. At that time we will have a better idea of the amount of state aid the University will receive. Guidelines will be approved at the January meeting with approval of the budget in May.
- In answer to Regent Storey's question regarding when the Board would be asked to approve salaries and tuition, President Farley indicated the recommendations would be brought to the January 26, 2007 Board meeting, with approval of the FY 2008 general fund budget approval at the May meeting.
- The 2007 salary data from the national data base will be available in April. We have not been able to get the information directly from the Kansas Board of Regents or the individual institutions.

Revenues –

- Sales tax collections were reviewed. President Farley explained October sales information will not be available until the end of December since we do not receive the funds until at least sixty days after being collected. The numbers are volatile, but do give us help with projections. We never project an increase over the previous year. The Smoothing Fund is available to use if necessary.
- President Farley said the Kansas Board of Regents has recommended a state aid increase of 6% for Washburn, however, we will not know the Governor's recommendation until January.

Tuition and Fee Analysis –

- President Farley pointed out Washburn is very tuition dependent since 47% of the E&G budget comes from tuition. Washburn is now 9% below the national average in tuition rates. David Monical noted the analysis shows the shift from state support to tuition support of schools. The President illustrated even though Washburn is tuition driven, we are still second from the lowest in tuition cost increases. The trend across the country is going to differential tuition.
- The differences in fee structure at Washburn and at other schools were discussed.
- Enrollment at Washburn has held solid for the last several years.
- Regent Parks asked how we can market tuition cost information to our advantage. President Farley said we should take the opportunity to explain the differences in fees between Washburn and other schools.
- Regent Warren said it would be helpful and interesting to see high school graduate projections.

Costs to Continue –

- Proposed increases in utilities, health insurance, property insurance, and workers compensation were discussed, along with increased costs for operating expenses and library materials.

Strategic Priorities –

- Salary Program
 - In FY 1998 Washburn faculty salaries were 11.5% below the national average. By FY 2006 the difference was narrowed to 5.8%. We have made substantial improvements in salaries, however,

the challenge this year will be to not lose any ground. President Farley noted we do have the advantage here of a lower cost of living, along with a good retirement program and health insurance.

- Scholarships
 - Regent Roth asked for a schedule showing the correlation between scholarships and tuition increases.
- University Initiatives
 - Funds will be needed for ongoing transformational experience costs.

Projections –

- Several alternative projections were provided showing various tuition increase options.
- Regent Roth asked for law school tuition comparisons for KU and Washburn.
- The President asked the Regents to call him or Vice President Hill with any questions about the projections.

Law School Operations –

- President Farley outlined revenues and expenditures for the Law School.

Other Issues –

- Regent Storey said a decision will need to be made quickly on the weight training facility and the possible relocation of the two on-campus maintenance buildings. Greg Schwerdt will be asked to attend the January 11 committee meeting.
- Meeting was adjourned.