

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
June 14, 2016

Regents Present: Paul Hoferer (committee chair), John McGivern (committee member), Jennifer Sourk (committee member), Bill Sneed, Brent Boles, Mayor Larry Wolgast, Terry Beck.

The meeting was called to order by Paul Hoferer, chair, at 11:48 a.m.

1) Minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting were approved as distributed.

2) FY 2017 General Fund Budget

Vice President Rick Anderson presented the proposal for the FY 17 Budget saying that the priorities have not changed in the last several years. He reviewed the tuition and fee comparison with the State Regents institutions over the last ten years. He noted that the Regents schools final recommendations would be approved this week at the KBOR meeting and would all be in the 5% range. President Farley said the funding bill did not include any changes or cuts to Washburn or the community colleges. In answer to a query, Dr. Liedtke said we are not losing students to the Regents schools because of tuition costs. He said the cost of attendance will still be in the middle after the new Lincoln Housing is up and running. He noted that cost comparison tools and calculators are not comparing apples to apples and the only real way to compare is to go through the potential costs with an admissions counselor. He said being lowest cost is sometimes also seen as being low quality. President Farley said our primary competitors are KU and KSU.

VP Anderson said the Regents schools are all looking at 1.8-2% salary increases this year. The Washburn administration is proposing a 2% merit and market increase which would be done in October and is dependent on fall enrollment numbers. He noted that WU salaries lag behind peers by 10-15%, however, the retirement plan and health insurance are better than most. He explained that the salary plan is included in the budget at this time since we need to set aside the funds now, with the assumption that fall enrollment will allow for the salary increase. A salary program will be brought to the board in September. President Farley said he is optimistic about fall enrollment, including that of the Law School. He noted we have only had three salary programs in the past eight years for a total of 6.5%. Without the necessary resources our salaries have fallen behind with both the national and Midwestern peer institutions.

Lincoln Hall and Dining contracts were discussed. The administration is cautiously optimistic and hoping for 90% occupancy.

Three years ago Washburn Tech had the lowest tuition rate of any of the Kansas tech schools. The proposed tuition rate for Washburn Institute of Technology is \$116, moving it closer to the average of the other schools. In comparison it is a great product and a great value.

In answer to a query about facility comparison, Clayton Tatro, Associate Dean of Instruction at Washburn Tech, said the facility is behind Wichita but comparable to the other schools in the State. President Farley noted that when the school districts were footing the bill there was no inclination to make improvements to the tech schools.

In the future tuition will be a higher percentage of revenue for Washburn Tech due to the end of Senate Bill 155.

It was moved and seconded to recommend to the full Board of Regents approval of the proposed budget and budget assumptions. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.