

Washburn Board of Regents
Budget Finance Committee Meeting
April 3, 2019

Regents Present: Beck (committee member), Hoferer (committee member), Klausman, McGivern (committee chair), Parks (committee member), Sourk

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by committee chair McGivern.

The minutes from the June 15, 2018 meeting were approved as distributed.

Vice President Jim Martin reviewed the proposed FY 2020 Capital Projects, Technology Equipment, and Other Equipment requests which will be paid from the FY 2019 Debt Retirement and Construction Fund revenues. He described the process involved to narrow down the list from the many requested projects and equipment to the ones deemed essential for this year. Discussion was held on the parking lot repairs to be made. The need for improved signage on campus was also noted. The item was moved and seconded to recommend approval of the Capital Projects, Equipment, and Technology requests by the full Board of Regents. Motion carried.

VP Martin then reviewed the 2017-2018 Faculty Salary Analysis, noting the trend shows slippage in salaries compared to the national average. It would take a 13.4% increase to match the national average. This will be discussed further at the June, 2019 committee meeting when discussing balancing the budget.

VP Martin discussed the Enrollment Report from fall 2018. Both the spring and fall enrollment numbers are lower than desired. When asked if the lower salaries are due to enrollment, VP Martin indicated that the decreased revenue does contribute but the administration is hoping to use a salary program to help decrease the gap from the national average.

VP Martin discussed the Tuition and Fee Analysis for 2018-2019 saying we try to benchmark against the Kansas Regents schools. Martin indicated that tuition has increased by 48% over the past 10 years, however, the overall increase is lower than all other KBOR schools except Fort Hays. President Farley indicated that we provide similar student services to other schools but do not charge for those services (i.e. athletic event and access to the Recreation and Wellness Center). VP Mazacheck said we try hard to stay up-to-date with our technology because student success directly affects our enrollment and graduation rate and technology plays a big part. She also said she is having tuition studies done on specific academic program areas. Dr. Liedtke said Washburn's primary competitors are KU and KSU. The committee discussed the possibility of setting aside some purchases to offset the salary and tuition costs. These points will be discussed further at the June, 2019 committee meeting.

VP Martin discussed the Financial Ratio Analysis, stating that the bond rating is excellent and that the University is in very good financial standing.

VP Martin presented the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget Assumptions for Washburn University and Washburn Institute of Technology. The budgeting principals have not changed. We continue to focus on quality at the best price. We have raised tuition less than almost all other KBOR schools over the last ten years. An update will be included in the June 2019 committee meeting regarding the state's choices on sales tax. We have always budgeted flat enrollment based on the previous year; however, we haven't had enrollment increases in the last few years. This year's proposal will be even more conservative based on state-wide projections. No increases are expected in health insurance and utility costs.

In-state versus out-of-state tuition charges were discussed.

Washburn Tech receives a much larger percentage of State funding so much is unknown about projections for Tech at this point.

Committee Chair McGivern adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.