

MINUTES
Budget Advisory Committee
March 26, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-President for Financial Affairs – Mike McCoy, Assistant VP for Financial Affairs – Jonathan Craft, College of Business – Chris Nelson, Staff Senate – Bethany Campbell, Faculty Senate – Debra Vaughn, College of Arts & Sciences – Jeff Blankenship, College of Education – Wendy Cowan, Library – Mary Aquila, Information Technology - Bud Gifford, Physical Plant – Chris Moss, – Student Support Services - Mitchell Bazzel, University Advancement - Tonyia Bowling, Academic Affairs - Molly Myhan, and Barbara Ferguson, reporting.

Due to the campus closure related to COVID-19, members of the Budget Advisory Committee participated in this meeting by means of electronic communications (through a telephone/Zoom conference call). Mr. McCoy called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. McCoy informed the committee that even though it will not be possible to conduct face-to-face meetings this year, the budget recommendation must still be compiled and presented to the President’s Cabinet in May. The tuition and fee schedule must be adopted by the Board of Trustees at the May meeting along with the full budget at the July meeting.

University departments are being asked to electronically submit budget requests in PDF documents. These will be forwarded to committee members and budget hearings will be held remotely via telephone/Zoom conference call during the week of April 6th-9th.

Mr. McCoy discussed the financial challenges many of our students are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, the Cabinet prefers not to have a tuition increase for the upcoming academic year. He also informed the committee that the governor’s recommended budget includes an increase for Athens State of approximately \$800,000 or 5.95%. This is much less than the expected amount being discussed before the pandemic. These factors combined will lead to minimal options for development of the new budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.