



Budget Advisory Committee
April 22, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

Attendees: Mike McCoy, VP for Financial Affairs, Jonathan Craft, Asst. VP for Financial Affairs, Chris Latham, Staff Senate representative, Malcolm Cort, College of Arts & Sciences representative, Jennifer Wolfe, Library representative, Debra Vaughn, Faculty Senate representative, Wendy Cowan, College of Education representative, Steve Downs, Physical Plant representative, Mitchell Bazzel, Student Support Services representative, Tonyia Bowling, University Advancement representative, Molly Myhan, Academic Affairs representative, and Barbara Ferguson, reporting

Absent: Chris Nelson, College of Business representative

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 9:30 a.m.

Prior to the meeting, VP McCoy emailed a handout summarizing all operating budget requests, including personnel and critical needs. He also sent an updated operating budget worksheet with expenses set at level with 2021 and projected revenues based on actual credit hours of Summer 2020, Fall 2021 and Spring 2021. He has factored in \$415,114 for projected additional revenue to be generated from the Archer Education partnership. These calculations lead to a shortfall of \$2.1M. He pointed out that these figures do not have any tuition increase factored in.

VP McCoy informed the committee of a possible option being discussed by the Cabinet for a tuition increase. Since there was no tuition increase last year and our previously established practice was to have tuition increases follow the CPI annual increase, the Cabinet has expressed interest in raising tuition 3.5% - 2.3% for 2019 and 1.4% for 2020. They have also asked about the possibility of increasing the technology fee to \$75 from \$50, as well as increasing graduate tuition to \$325.

He stated that indications are that the following state universities are not going to propose a tuition increase for 2022: UNA, Jacksonville State, UWA, and Montevallo. He also indicated that some of these institutions are considering proposing a COLA for employees. He reminded the committee that any discussion of a COLA would be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees.

VP McCoy reminded the committee that he plans to present the budget recommendation, including the proposed tuition and fee schedule to the Cabinet on May 4. The tuition and fee schedule will be presented to the Board for approval at the May 21 meeting and the final budget will be presented to the Board for approval at the July 16 meeting.

The committee expressed interest in seeing tuition revenue projections based on the 2-year CPI increase (3.5%) and bringing the rates for traditional and non-traditional tuition to equal or at least closer to equal. VP McCoy will provide that information to the committee via email over the next few days.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.