

Strategic Budget Committee Meeting Notes

Monday, January 29, 2024 1 PM – Alumni Room, University Union, and Teams

Attendance: Sheryl Van Gruensven, Kate Burns, Lisa Jackovich, Matt Dornbush, John Katers, Susan Gallagher-Lepak, Ryan Martin, Dawn Crim, SuAnn Detampel, Pieter deHart, Jessica Lambrecht, Jen Jones, Courtney Sherman, Melissa Nash, Steven Millard, Brian Merkel, Brenda Beck, Andy Bleier, Tracy Van Erem

1. FY24

a. Budget to Actual

SuAnn provided an update on financials. The backpay from pay plan for July 1 – December was applied in January. That is causing actuals to run a little low compared to budget through December.

b. Projections

Lisa provided updated projections. She mentioned that the Chancellor is motivated to have a balanced budget in FY25. Tuition revenue is projected to be up in FY24 compared to FY23. Factors contributing to the increase include the tuition rate increase, undergraduate differential, and improved enrollment in graduate and dual enrollment students. FY24 expenses on fund 131 are projected to also be up. There are additional positions supported by the differential, as well as the pay plans on 1/1/23 and 7/1/23. Travel is moving towards pre-COVID levels. Business and Finance also tries to maximize the use of GPR salary funds to make use of the fringe credit we receive, by moving salaries paid by tuition over to GPR funding. We are estimating a smaller amount of GPR available due to fewer vacancies. The estimated FY24 ending tuition fund balance is \$7.2M+, which is within the 30-60 days of expenses guideline set by UW System.

2. Budget Reductions for FY25

a. Review of \$2.5M planned base reductions

Sheryl and Kate provided an update on the process of identifying base reductions in FY25 to help ensure we are able to balance the budget. Reductions are being made across the university, while trying to minimize impact to students and on-going employees. Within academic affairs, plans to reduce ad hoc spending and overload payments, S&E reductions, extending vacant positions, or not filling vacant positions, and other reductions will contribute ~\$1,500,000. Business & Finance is making ~\$500,000 in reductions. Some vacant positions will remain vacant. S&E is being reduced in select areas. Other areas across the university will participate in the remaining ~\$500,000 in reductions.

3. FY25 Tuition Requests to BOR

- a. 2.5% increase is being advised by UW System with an additional 1.0% to support the tuition promise
- b. UWGB is planning an additional \$6.29 per credit (formerly known as the tuition differential)

- c. The Masters in Nutritional and Informational Health RDN Track is proposed to move from a Service Based Pricing model to a tuition plus differential plan

A call was made for any other tuition related changes that are planned. No others were indicated. Matt had a question about the Tuition Promise. Sheryl indicated that all universities participate in funding it. System is seeking permanent funding for it.

4. Budget Process

Lisa provided an update. We are waiting on information from UW System to allow us to finalize instructions. The CAT and PlanUW will be available soon.

5. Deloitte Financial and Strategic Assessment

A draft of the UW-Green Bay assessment has been shared with cabinet. The plan is that the final report will be completed by February 12. It is unknown when it will be available to share. Sheryl was able to share a few slides from the deck. A question was made whether the SBC could see the draft prior to completion. Sheryl said she thought that was a good idea, and would look into it, and share if possible.

6. Pre-Credit Option (Eliminating Tuition Plateau) Workgroup

Sheryl updated that a discussion was held looking at eliminating the graduate plateau. Pieter shared a summary of those discussions, primarily around concerns that it would impact competitiveness of certain programs, with limited upside elsewhere.

Currently, UW-Stout is the only UW university that does not have a plateau. UW System Finance has indicated that other universities now have the option to eliminate the plateau. We are seeking a working group to review the impact, both to students and to university revenue.

Matt shared that eliminating the plateau is an equity issue, as students that can attend full-time benefit from paying for fewer credits, while those that attend part-time pay for every credit.

Sheryl asked that anyone interested in participating in the working group to contact her in the next week, or so.

7. SBC Website

Andy shared the newly established SBC webpage, within the Budget department's webpage group. The webpage includes the meeting notes from previous meetings.

The next meeting is planned for April, with the exact date to be determined.