

## Faculty Council Meeting – Friday 1/16/09

### Minutes

Call to Order: 3:04 pm

#### Budget Cuts

Tim Ryan: Elaborated on where we are with this fiscal year.

Re: Memo mid-December from System office regarding cuts – subsequently in the press.

(General Fund Budget)

Hiring freeze put in place to address that memo – State freeze – still under that with exemptions.

\$3.1 million between now and end of this fiscal year – how will this affect staff?

- Between salary and fringes
- Reduce adjunct hires / section offerings. Long term goal of reducing Math and English classes to 19 students (Retention effort)
- Minor adjustments to contracts, U.C.C.
- Consolidate classroom usage (save on utility costs)
- Earnings from Lakefront Arena to minimize pain of the budget cuts

#### Big Issue Next Year

- Governor needs to prepare executive budget by March 27 for legislative session beginning April 27
- Revenue Estimating Conference will meet

Received email yesterday from Lombardi Re: Higher Education Cuts

- By January 23 we need to turn in plan on how we're going to cut our budget for next fiscal year
- Concerns getting out to press, media, etc
- Efforts to raise noise about cuts
- Need to send "strategic" budget plan (probably won't know actual budget until June)
- (Estimated \$124 million)

Need to Present a Range of Cuts

- Low number @19.6%, estimated \$13.9 million

- High number @31.6%, estimated \$22.4 million
- Need to present by January 23

Cuts are of the magnitude to do serious damage to this institution

UNO Foundation meeting today – discussed matter with Board members

Executive Committee meeting tomorrow (Saturday) to address this

Tuition increases – doesn't believe we can use this measure to offset cuts

Additional revenue / Efforts to raise fees – UNO out of date compared to other Universities.  
(We need to look at per hour charge like University of Phoenix)

Excess credit hour fee per Linda Robison – Tim Ryan asked system if we could do this

MBA fees

- Talked about current fees in place
- 1 time fee adjustment to bring them up to date
- Not able to use this in current exercises

Tim Ryan – Mike Martin of LSU Campus to lead the charge

Rachel Kincaid and LSU counterparts working together on this also

There are things we can do that will reduce costs while maintaining quality (e.g. programs)

Question of Financial Exigency from Faculty

- Tim Ryan, Board, etc are not planning/considering at this point
- Being honest at some point needs to look at what is/might be necessary

Across the Board Cuts

Relevant Good News

- President elect's stimulus package contains provisions for higher education that may be very helpful to our budget process via operating monies
- Work with our delegation (Senator Landrieu)
- Fed may help where state will not
- New formula needs to be implemented (mentioned at last Faculty Council/Senate meeting)

Not happy with the way this was presented, asked for all to help out in getting word to legislators, etc

Organizing efforts to get word out to legislators

Possibly using Software to do so

Janet Speyrer – Is Athletics on the table?

Tim Ryan – President told him to structure/mention Athletics

David Hoover - 5% tuition increase next year?

Tim Ryan – Think we will be able to do that

John Savage – Is this political? Is Governor Jindal doing this Re: SUNO, etc?

Tim Ryan – No

Ray Sweany – Will there be a Financial Exigency discussion possibility before it takes place (if necessary)?

Tim Ryan – There will be less time, but, as he mentioned before, we won't need or not planning to do that

Faculty Member – Low end and high end. Based on mid- year cuts. Do you know of anything that has to be cut?

Tim Ryan – No. Not yet. Don't know where we're going to end yet.

Faculty Member – Has state presented or talked about retirement options?

Tim Ryan – A lot of talk about it. Big problem though, not heard of the state doing this from Lombardi

Susan Krantz – What about using the surplus money?

Polly Thomas - \$ Allocation?

Tim Ryan – Governor, LSU System would/will allocate

Polly Thomas – Operations money not capital money

Ron Young – We had \$3.1 million cut. What did LSU get?

Tim Ryan – Percentages were used per campus. Told this cut will not be across the board.

Faculty Member – Is anything not on the chopping block?

Tim Ryan – No, but as we go through this we will try to be a better and stronger institution

Re: Library on chopping block

John Savage – Status of VC Research and Provost?

Merrill Johnson – Re: VC Research---Updated this matter---interviews next.

Susan Krantz – Re: Provost---All reviewed---interviews next

Rachel Kincaid – Re: VC Economic & Technology---All reviewed and interviewed

John Savage – Will there be public forums for these?

Tim Ryan – Yes

Faculty Member – Is this (Budget cuts) all a political ploy/dance?

Tim Ryan – Answered hypothetically

Rachel Kincaid – Governor says it's a process. He has to balance the budget.

April Bedford – Relationships of budget cuts with Promotion & Tenure?

Tim Ryan - None, we don't/won't curtail that.

Tim Ryan – Other questions? We will keep you informed... Rachel will work hard on keeping us abreast of the matter and keeping us informed on what we need to do as a body to voice our concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Roberto Diaz del Valle