



Minutes APPROVED on 2023 Nov 7 **Faculty Senate Budget Committee** **October 20, 2023**

Present:

- Blynne Olivieri Parker (Senator) - Chair
- Laura Caramanica - THSSON (Senator)
- Pam Dunagan - THSSON (Representative)
- Swarna Dutt - RCOB (Senator)
- Rebekah Teal - RCOB (Representative)
- Mina Rollins - RCOB (Senator)
- Paul Rutledge - UC (Representative)
- Marjorie Snipes - CACSI (Representative)
- Elizabeth Keohan Burbridge - COE (Representative)
- Chase Williams, SGA, Vice-President of Business and Finance
- Lynn Sotillo, Assistant VP Financial Planning & Analysis (Budget Services appointee)
- Lucretia Gibbs, AVP Academic Strategic Budget Planning and Finance (Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs appointee)

Absent:

- Hazel Cole - SCFM (Representative)
- Scott McElroy, Vice President for Business and Finance
- Tina Skinner Reece, Administrative Manager for Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management (Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management appointee)

1. Roll call

2. Approval of past meeting minutes (link in the Shared Drive)

Marjorie Snipes proposed, and Laura Caramianica seconded, approval of the September 12 2023 meeting minutes. There were two abstentions from voting. Minutes were approved.



3. Selection of Chair-Elect

Laura Caramanica stepped forward to serve as FS Budget Chair for AY24-25.

4. Follow up on information-gathering action items at last meeting:

- a. Budget impact on moving to Division 1 and joining ASUN.

President's response to this question in FS Sept 15 mtg: There was a business case for making a move away from the Gulf South Conference. Our costs were going to go up due to expanding geographic expansion (expensive to travel to Texas); decreasing opportunities for revenue. There was a feasibility study. 3 conferences were interested in UWG. Increased revenue streams available through Division 1, along with increased expenses. If we had stayed in Gulf South, \$5M deficit. Now, projecting \$1M revenue over expense, Our facilities are top percentage. We have the infrastructure. Almost zero facilities expenses. \$20,000 investment for adding Beach Volleyball. The sport, Stunt, does not require anything. There are increased requirements for student support. Required to 60:3. These costs are offset through revenue. Increased opportunities for Corporate sponsorships. This was a visibility and business decision to sustain our university. There is no cost to UWG students. Cost areas: membership fee, exit fee for Gulf South (\$110k), entrance fee (\$200k over 2 years). We aren't going to make money. We will sustain our business model.

- b. Are we moving from Google to Microsoft and when?

Response from VP & CIO Kirk Inman. There is no established timeline. Implementing a Proof of Concept (POC) with about 50 people. The POC is expected to last 3-4 months.

AVP Lynn Sotillo shared that her Budget Office, 10 people, are part of the POC.

Faculty Senators and Representatives expressed a variety of discipline-specific concerns about the use of Microsoft and with Google.

ACTION: Blynne will follow up with the Chairs of TLA and FIT to reach out to CIO Inman to inquire about faculty involvement with the POC and to ensure there is faculty input along the way.

5. Presentation of overall FY24 university budget (Lynn Sotillo, Asst. Vice President, Financial Planning & Analysis)



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

The FY24 state appropriation to UWG was \$81 million. For this FY, we did experience the \$1.6 million cut that was part of the Georgia Assembly's cut to USG of \$66 million. The state appropriation is built off a funding formula and no one is clear what that formula is.

The state appropriation uses student credit hour (SCH) data from 2 years prior. We know that in FY25, based on SCH from FY23, that we can expect a \$3.7M cut. The President and his Executive Administrative Council set funding priorities and decide how cuts will be carried out.

In addition to the \$81M state appropriation is that year's tuition and fees. That is \$55M, bringing the UWG revenue for FY24 to a total of \$136M.

Auxiliaries - housing, dining, etc. - lost \$1.5M. This is due to declining enrollment and due to the fact that 50% of all UWG students are 100% online, and thus not subject to in-person student fees. AVP Sotillo shared that the Budget office is running scenarios for the slight possibility that USG would retract the no-fees-for-online-students mandate, and that online students could be charged a percentage fee.

In good news for Auxiliaries, dorm rooms and apartment suites are available for rent. There are faculty and staff who commute long distances who are increasingly renting these spaces on a monthly basis. One person said that marketing isn't great for this offering. One person in the meeting mentioned that monthly dorm room payments are now available to students. One person also mentioned meal plan offerings to staff and faculty.

AVP Sotillo states that there are some possibilities for additional revenue streams and that enrollment is looking up.