

Budget and Finance Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Attendance:

Students: Jonathan Delagatta, Trevor Baldwin

Faculty: Dr. Steffen Marcus, Dr. Katie Hooven, Dr. Nonna Sorokina, Dr. Bozena Leven, Dr. Bill Keep

Staff: Lloyd Ricketts, Joe O'Brien, Elizabeth Gallus

Minutes:

We started out by reviewing and approving the minutes from the last meeting.

Lloyd: CSPP Updates: Council reports will need to be updated in the next week or two.

Budget Communications: Dr. Foster/Cabinet met regarding high level investments on 2020 institutional priorities. The leading priority will be cost containments and savings initiative. He discussed that the college has/is asking for 80 more positions to be funded by the state.

Bozena: Asked if there were 80 new positions funded what would they be?

Lloyd clarified and said these would not be new positions but many that we already have in place that are currently paid out of pocket by TCNJ. Lloyd said that we would be looking for the state to cover more fringe benefits for these employees. He said the state currently pays for 859 employees' fringe, however we have nearly 1100 employees.

Nonna: Asked about the College looking into potential partnerships with corporations. She gave the example of Bloomberg Terminal. She suggested in the short term that we look at fundraising efforts for specific schools. Lloyd said that would be the responsibility of John Donohue in advancement.

Elizabeth asked about the chart we were given on institutional priorities and asked for clarity around differential tuition. It was explained that this would be for things such as extra fees for certain majors.

Katie highlighted that the school of nursing recently implemented this. Katie stated that she thought the board/cabinet were not keen on adding student fees. Lloyd responded that in order to do this, that he would need a clear rationale to add fees.

There continued to be a robust discussion regarding fees for certain schools/majors, specifically for nursing/science due to equipment, lab costs, etc.

Jonathan discussed how we would assist students who then switch majors. Bill brought up that 70% of students in a graduating cohort never leave their school, leaving about 30% that jump schools. He

clarified that usually that goes from what would be a more expensive school/program, to a less expensive school/program.

Lloyd discussed efficiency/cost savings. He asked if there should be some sort of template that each office/area could use to justify costs. Nonna asked how we know how to save on costs if we don't know how money is being spent.

Bill explained that our committee is a catalyst for beginning that conversation but he was clear that we are not the final decision makers.

Lloyd referred back to the UPenn website. Discussion ensued around operational excellence and he believes our committee should lay the framework or provide a template for others to use.

We discussed the NYU article. We all liked the idea of keeping cost down for students.

Bozena found the NYU article interesting. She asked why there would be landline phones in the dorms. She highlighted how they lowered the bed cost, increased student bed counts, and she brought up the concept of accepting students in a second round in the spring—or using summer even as a second round so that we have students year round.

Concerns were brought about MOA 62 with regard to the credits delivered per faculty and which semesters those occur. We discussed having some “blended courses” in the summer.

Katie was concerned if we had faculty year round that it might deter some from taking on internship programs in the summer.

Bozena brought up the concept of three year programs.

Bill discussed his current research looking at three data groups including faculty resources and the #credits delivered per year.

We closed the meeting with Lloyd and Marcus discussing getting a charge from President Foster and possibly establishing a task force to have a group of people that can help us.