

**WASHBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**Budget/Finance Committee Meeting**  
**December 14, 2007**

Regents Present: Jim Roth, Ben Blair, Mayor Bill Bunten, Blanche Parks, Bob Storey

Staff Present: Jerry Farley, Wanda Hill, Denise Ottinger, Robin Bowen, Al Dickes, Tom Ellis, David Monical, JuliAnn Mazachek, Chris Leach, Rhonda Thornburgh, Melodie Christal, Keith Palmbach

Student Present: Vince Bowhay

Minutes of the May 4, 2007 meeting were approved as distributed.

Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Planning Calendar -

- The next committee meeting will be changed from January 11, 2008 to January 25, 2008, prior to the Regents meeting.

Sales Tax –

- It does not appear there will be any growth in sales tax to help fund budget increases.

Costs to Continue –

- Utilities – Natural gas costs have been fairly stable this year. We may need an additional \$50,000 for FY09.
- Health Insurance – Last year we spent about \$1 million more than we collected. An additional few hundred thousand may be needed to cover the increase for FY09. The Wellness Program should help to control health insurance costs.
- Property Insurance and Workers Compensation – Small increases are anticipated.

Strategic Priorities –

- Salary Program -
  - The Faculty Salary Analysis was discussed.
  - President Farley said Washburn fills in with adjunct lecturers to teach one class rather than hiring a full-time faculty member. The adjuncts are not included in the comparisons. He said it is a very involved process to become a full professor. Washburn very rarely hires new faculty at the professor level, but brings them in as assistant or associate professors.
  - Washburn benefits are comparable to the City of Topeka, the State, and the State institutions. The State schools have not been able to offer the fifty percent tuition break for dependents of employees as Washburn has done.
  - Benefit comparisons on a national basis are very difficult to make.
  - When asked about the University's flexibility in transferring money from one fund to another President Farley said most of Washburn's money, even the auxiliaries, is in the general fund.
  - In the past our faculty recruiting efforts were hindered by the salary amounts offered. President Farley said we are now having greater success recruiting on a regional level. For the last several years we have focused on trying to catch up with other public master's level institutions. In FY00 we were almost 12% behind other institutions and in FY07 we were only 5% behind. Faculty won't bother to apply for Washburn positions if our salaries can't compete.
  - Mayor Bunten said it is necessary for faculty on the East and West coasts to make more since the cost of living is higher.
- Scholarships -
  - President Farley said if we raise tuition we also need to raise the amount of scholarships.
- University Initiatives –
  - President Farley has been discussing initiatives with Vice Presidents Hill and Bowen. They will meet again before the next meeting to discuss what initiatives will have the biggest impact on students.

#### Projections –

- Chairperson Roth distributed an Analysis of General Fund Revenues FY03 through FY08. He also distributed an Example of Merit Increases for Faculty FY05 through FY08. He said a decision will be needed for merit increases for FY09. For a salary increase of four percent it will be necessary to increase tuition by seven percent.
- Mayor Bunten said we need to retain our faculty but we also need to keep students. He noted there was a reduction in enrollment this year.
- There has been no word from the Kansas Board of Regents on tuition increases for FY09. Mr. Monical indicated the State Board is allowing institutions to retain more tuition income for salaries which enables them to be more aggressive with salary increases.
- The State normally follows the Governor's recommendation for increases. We should know the recommendation by the second week in January.
- Washburn receives \$124,000 for every one percent received from the State. The State funding the University receives has less impact on Washburn than on the State schools since we are more tuition dependent.
- President Farley said he doesn't feel enrollment will be impacted by a tuition increase. Tuition is only one of the factors students take into account when choosing a school to attend.
- A recommendation for tuition differential is not available yet. President Farley said the tuition differential does not have to go to the department charged for. We will look to use the new dollars where they will have the greatest impact.
- Mayor Bunten said a judgment on the tuition to be charged should be made based on funds available without concern for what is being done at other schools.
- KU tuition and fees increased 177% over the last 10 years compared to an 85% increase at Washburn for the same time period.

#### Other Issues –

- Chairperson Roth asked the Regents to let President Farley know about any additional questions or concerns prior to the next meeting so decisions could be made at the meeting.
- Meeting was adjourned.