

**EXECUTIVE BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
MARCH 25, 2020**

Members in attendance:

Jim Baker, Melissa Bledsoe, Ryan DeBoef, Abdillahi Dirie, Frank Einhellig, Steve Foucart, Richard Gebken, Lyon Hough, Adja Jones, James Kaatz, Mitzi Kirkland-Ives, Josh Lambert, Shirley Lawler, Vic Matthews, Saibal Mitra, Matt Morris, Cathy Pearman, Matthew Pierson, Suzanne Shaw, Dee Siscoe, Clif Smart

Members absent:

None

Meeting was conducted via Zoom due to the Coronavirus pandemic

**1. Welcome – Dr. Richard Gebken**

- Dr. Gebken called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

**2. FY2020 Revenue Situation – Clif Smart**

- Clif Smart updated the committee on the fiscal year 2020 revenue situation. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the university issued approximately \$3 million in residence hall refunds and has experienced a number of other unanticipated expenses and revenue reductions due to refunds and other responses to mitigate the coronavirus and comply with government directives. Expenses and other revenue reductions related to the pandemic will likely continue throughout the rest of the fiscal year. Additionally, the state has informed all universities that they should begin to plan for a withhold of an unknown amount this fiscal year. The extent of relief that will be available from the federal government to offset the reduced revenue and additional expenses remains unknown.
- The university is taking steps to mitigate the impact of the reduced revenue and additional expenses. Staff that are not working on campus and are not able to work from home are being moved to 2/3 of their regular pay. Work is ongoing to eliminate, delay and scale back campus projects and initiatives.

**3. FY2021 Revenue Situation – Clif Smart**

- Clif Smart also updated the committee on the fiscal year 2021 revenue situation. The state has informed all universities that they should plan for less state appropriations next fiscal year. The amount of the reduction is unknown at this time, but we hope to gain more information as we get closer to May. The impact of the coronavirus on enrollment for next year is also unknown. We hope to gain more information on the enrollment impact in the coming months as well.
- This puts the university in uncharted territory on establishing its budget for next fiscal year, and the fiscal year 2021 budgeting process will look very different than the process in prior years. The situation is too uncertain to develop a viable budget for

next fiscal year. Other than moving forward with the tuition and fee increases presented at the last executive budget committee meeting, all work done on the budget before the coronavirus pandemic is now moot.

#### **4. Next Steps**

- The board has delegated authority to President Smart to take the actions he deems necessary to preserve the financial wellbeing of the university, including development of the fiscal year 2021 budget. President Smart would like to keep the executive budget committee in place as he makes these decisions for feedback and insight. Accordingly, the committee will meet again before the Board of Governors' May meeting.

#### **5. Future Meetings – Dr. Richard Gebken and Clif Smart**

- Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 3:45 pm via Zoom

#### **6. Questions/Comments/Final Thoughts**

- Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.