

April 8 Executive Budget Committee

Legislative update – House passed the revised funding formula (based on student headcount, would benefit Missouri State University significantly, but would hurt other universities). Senate did not and passed the Governor’s recommendation of flat funding at the same funding formula. They will now have to conference to come to an agreement. Jamie Birch (Chief of Staff) said most likely result is flat funding and same funding formula for this year, but 1) who knows? and 2) this may suggest future movement to revise the funding formula.

CUPA update – handout given detailing Faculty and Staff Salary Comparisons. Staff CUPA average dropped from 91.6% to 90.7%. Adjusted for cost-of-living, they have it at 98.8%. Discussion on adjusting for cost-of-living happened; administration said that generally, we take this into account for all positions, even for administrators/coaches, etc. (we intentionally offer salaries for these things at the middle of our CUSA/peer grouping range).

More detailed/broken-down reports will be available on the website in late May - <https://www.missouristate.edu/Human/Restricted/salary-surveys.htm>

Budget update – change in tuition increase from draft to draft (4% to 5%) is result of more pessimistic fall enrollment projections (due to Inst. Effectiveness modeling). Other changes include CFO pay and fringe (\$449k) and Strategic Plan Initiatives (\$500k)

Discussion of difficulty forecasting graduate student numbers and effects of tuition increases on student numbers. Discussion of potential bottlenecks and possibility of one-time funding to be allocated to build a program or make a change to pursue growth opportunities (Health Care Alliance is an example)

Need expressed to gather ideas, identify where we can save costs, boost recruitment, etc. I asked about what the avenues were for this – the departments, divisions, etc. Is this actually the case?

I also raised the question of establishing a budget line for staff equity and reclassification adjustments. This was largely shut down as a talking point. I will raise it again because it is important to designate *something* in the budget for acknowledging and allowing for evolving jobs, equity changes across campus, etc.

Committee approves 5% increase in undergraduate and graduate tuition rates with draft budget as presented.

SGA Pres. Collin Chastain spoke about needs for sharing out information on it w/ students, with SGA and advocated for prioritizing tuition increases over fee increases because of transparency.

Note on OTC, which is getting an ATB raise – the raise is in part driven by enrollment increases (driven by 2-year trades enrollment) and also buoyed by tax fees from the counties they serve.