

**1 March 2004**  
**Report of the Committee of the Budget**  
**To The ECU Faculty Senate**

The Faculty Senate Budget Committee met on February 19, 2004.

Following the model established last year, the Committee resumed its study of major university budget areas. The Committee's third guest this academic year was Mr. E.J. Keeley, Director of Institutional Research. Mr. Keeley explained his vision of the role of institutional research in data analysis and program improvement. His experience in both academic institutions and the private sector is using data analysis for improvement. He stressed the critical need for well-created surveys and timely data. The Committee asked him a number of questions about using IDEA surveys for the improvement of instruction. He suggested that the use of IDEA as a selective instrument, a non-random sample, is not as effective as it would be if IDEA was a census, which is the norm at most schools. He noted that IDEA costs around \$15,000 each academic year and consumes about 75 percent of the IR budget, yet only a third or fewer of ECU faculty use it. This low usage rate is potentially harmful for accreditation. The Committee discussed at length the efficacy of IDEA, particularly since it is perceived as an expensive and flawed tool for obtaining information to improve classroom teaching. As a result, the Committee is bringing forth a motion about IDEA. Mr. Keeley also spoke about his desire to forge closer collaborative bonds with Information Technology. The Committee expressed our appreciation to E.J. for meeting with us so early in his tenure at ECU.

The remaining Budget Committee meetings of the academic year are

March 25 – Mr. John Shafer, Director of Athletics

April 6 – Budget Forum with Provost Lyle Cook and VP for Finance Ken Johnston  
1:30 to 3:00 PM – Library 108

April 22 – Mr. Jim Keith, Director ITDS

If you have any concerns that should be addressed by the Budget Committee, please contact one of our members.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Siegel  
Chair