

Faculty Senate Budget Committee Report: April 5, 2010

The Budget Committee continues to meet every two weeks to discuss information dealing with the budget. Much of our time over the past few meetings has been concerned with getting our survey of the faculty out and compiling the results. We were quite happy with the number of faculty who responded, approximately 230.

We are sorry to report that the possibility for a raise for faculty and staff for 2010-2011 is slim to none. With the budget cuts from the state legislature's budget the possibility of a raise for the 2010-2011 year is very dim, in fact dark. A 1% raise would cost the university approximately 1.5 million dollars in recurring funds which it does not have.

The good news is that ECU has reserved a fund from previous cuts so that the university should be able to absorb the cuts sent our way from the legislature for the coming year.

The state has also raised the contributing funds from the universities to the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System so there may be a slight raise in the amount removed from the paychecks of employees who are paying into KTRS.

Three houses on Lancaster Avenue were purchased recently by ECU. The funding for these houses came from the general fund as well as the cost of renovations.

The new science building is going to be short of funds from the state in order to complete it, so the university will have to come up with the additional funds to cover all expenses.

For those of you concerned about the cost of the new construction projects happening on campus please be aware the funding given by the state of Kentucky for these projects happened some time ago and is specifically designated for the construction of the new science building and the new performing arts building. This money can only be used for these projects! Funding for the renovation for Walters Hall is budgeted with a bond through housing, and should be paid for through fees for housing.

The trend for our health insurance is that there will certainly be an increase in the cost. How much of that increase will be covered by ECU and how much will be passed on to faculty and staff is undetermined at this time.

The Financial Planning Council will meet on April 9th to finalize tuition and other actionable agenda items. The university's budget will not be final until May. Everybody is still waiting for the state to finalize its budget.

On behalf of the Budget Committee, Senator Johnson asked President Whitlock to comment on the budget survey results at the next Senate meeting.

Respectfully submitted by the Faculty Senate Budget Committee:

Marco Ciocca

Mike Hesse

Keith Johnson, chair

Karen Petronio

Linda Wray

Janna Vice, Interim Provost

John Wade, Dean Representative

Mixon Ware, FS chair – ex officio

Debbie Newsom, VP for Financial Affairs –ex officio