

Cc: Lee, Lori

Subject: University Budget Task Force Matrix

Jan,

The Budget Task Force has done a great job. I would like to share a couple of comments based on the "CONSIDER MATRIX." Please encourage appropriate Senate Committees to work with the Staff Forum as well as SGA to protect these areas.

Thanks.

Brenda

- Pay Faculty-a flat rate for summer school teaching (ST)

You probably remember when we had a very limited flat summer stipend. Faculty fought very hard over many years (at least a decade of continually requesting a change) to finally achieve a competitive summer teaching stipend. We finally obtained a percentage that was competitive with other universities and it has helped us attract good faculty. Please fight hard to protect the progress that we have made. **Permanent changes to pay structures are very hard to reverse down the road.** I would hope that we would be looking primarily for ways to survive this current economic crisis without reversing progress we have made in becoming more competitively in faculty salaries. Temporary pay cuts or furloughs would be much more desirable than permanently cutting salaries through a change in summer pay structure. This change would go against the UNC Tomorrow recommendation of attracting and retaining high-quality faculty (Recommendation 5.4 UNC should prepare for wide-scale faculty retirement and increase efforts to recruit and retain high-quality faculty.). Finally, prior to establishing a competitive % for summer stipends, many departments had difficulty obtaining faculty commitment to teach the summer courses.

Note: I tried to find and cite ECU's response to Phase II of UNC Tomorrow but could not find it on the "ECU Response to UNC Tomorrow" web page or in the Faculty Senate Meeting Materials (from November 2008 through March 2009). Is it available somewhere else? UNC has not yet posted campus responses to Phase II.

- Close motor pool

In the short-term, that may seem desirable on the surface. We need to weigh the costs of paying the higher mileage for personal car use versus the costs of maintaining a motor pool. Further, a major finding of the UNC Tomorrow Commission was "UNC should be more actively engaged in enhancing the economic transformation and community development of North Carolina's regions and the state as a whole." (Finding 4.6 Our Communities and Their Economic Transformation, UNC Tomorrow). ECU Tomorrow also highlights our commitment to increase outreach to the community. Eliminating our motor pool will place a burden on faculty and staff who must drive their personal cars to do professional outreach when the reimbursement often does not keep up with the actual expenses.

- Privatize the bookstore

Such a drastic change should be carefully considered after a significant study. The bookstore does not cost us dollars but rather generates revenue and uses that revenue to provide scholarships. Also, they are very committed and responsive to the needs of our faculty and students. There are varying views of privatized bookstores that may go counter to our goals. Often, faculty complain about the service that is offered by privatized bookstores. We don't have the same level of control on the direct costs of textbooks to our students either. A bookstore has a commitment to keep prices low and is continually working with our students and faculty to keep those costs down. Privatized bookstores will focus on profits they can generate, not the service they can provide. Further, I doubt a privatized bookstore would support the various student organizations, publications, and other campus events.

- Reduce bus routes (LT)

At a time when most universities and urban areas (and the nation as a whole) are trying to find ways to promote mass transit in an effort to be greener, I would hope we would try to reduce bus routes only as a result of inefficiencies only. Please make sure to gain adequate student input on this suggestion. Finally, a major Finding of the UNC Tomorrow Commission was that "UNC should assume a leadership role in addressing the state's energy and environmental challenges." (4.6 Our Environment, UNC Tomorrow).

- Use more part-time faculty (LT)

Please make sure we have some benchmarks and VERY close monitoring to ensure we are not getting into accreditation problems with this proposed increase in part-time faculty. Having just finished working on the SACS Interim Report for Core Requirement 2.8 (The number of full-time faculty members is adequate to support the mission of the institution and to ensure the quality and integrity of its academic programs.), I would hope we cautiously approach this suggestion. Some of our departments are already at only 50% of full-time faculty.

From: Battle, Diana **On Behalf Of** Sheerer, Marilyn
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2009 8:33 AM
To: ECU Official
Subject: University Budget Task Force Matrix
Importance: High

TO: The University Community

FROM: Marilyn Sheerer, Provost
 Jan Tovey, Chair of the Faculty

SUBJECT: University Budget Task Force Matrix

Attached please find the recommendations received by the Budget Task Force from across the University. We have compiled the information into a Matrix which shows which items are currently in progress, which items are being considered or studied, and which items are not being considered.

This initial draft of our work thus far has been sent to Chancellor Ballard and the Executive Council, and we are sharing it with the university community so as to keep you informed. As yet, we have not entered all actual dollar amounts in the respective columns, but we are moving in that direction.

Please note that in some cases we have pulled together some of the items we received into one category for easier reading. We continue to invite suggestions for ways to cut our budgets and to increase revenues. Please send any additional ideas to Steve Duncan at duncans@ecu.edu.