

University Budget Committee Meeting

December 4, 2023

Minutes

In Attendance: Michael Morrell (co-chair), Lisa Bousch (co-chair), Jeffrey McCutcheon, Stephen Marchillo, Reka Wrynn, Eleni Coundouriotis, Mohammed Ruwaid, Michael White, Elena Dormidontovae, Michael Vertefeuille; Guests: Jessica Chrabaszcz (Athletics), Maureen O'Connor (Athletics),

I) Introductions

II) Approval of Minutes: Eleni moved, Michael 2nd; unanimously approved

III) Announcements: Lisa and Michael met with the new Senate administrator (Michelle Everard) and look forward to working with her

IV) Old Items

A) none

V) New Items

A) Athletics:

- 1) Jessica Chrabaszcz, Executive Associate Athletic Director for Competitive Excellence & Maureen O'Connor, Associate Athletic Director of Business Operations presented information on FY23 & 24 budget for Athletics and economic impact of Athletics on the Connecticut economy. We discussed the subsidy for athletics, how each sport fares regarding budgets, coaches' salaries, and FY25 plans. We clarified information regarding various categories in the budget and the effects the Title IX ruling has had on it. We discussed the effects conference realignment have had, and will continue to have, on the athletics program and its budget. Jessica and Maureen highlighted that the Athletics Department is constantly looking at ways to raise revenue and decrease costs.
- 2) We discussed larger issues such as the effects of the Athletic program on public perceptions, both good (e.g., winning a national championship) and bad (e.g., the Keven Ollie situation).
- 3) They clarified that the Athletics Department pays tuition and other fees for its athletes.
- 4) We discussed the infrastructures for academic faculty to work with Athletic department. Jessica explained that Ellen Trip oversees student athlete support. We do this to some extent and Athletics would not turn down anyone that wants to help students.
- 5) We asked Jessica what concerns her most about your budget? She indicated that costs are going up quickly, changes regarding NIL, and the influence of Title IX are important issues that will continue to require work.
- 6) We had a frank discussion about the feelings of some faculty and staff about the role and costs of athletics at the university and the Budget Committee's role in asking sometimes challenging questions.
- 7) Jessica suggested exploring the possibility of having someone from Athletics on the committee. Michael and Lisa said that they would explore this possibility.