

Budget and Finance Committee
Western Kentucky University

Report to the University Senate

Date: April 27, 2015

From: Dr. Andrew West, Chair

The Budget and Finance Committee met on March 31 and April 14, 2015 and submits the following agenda items for consideration to the University Senate:

1. A sub-committee of the Budget and Finance Committee reported back to the committee on their findings and conversations with VP Ann Mead, CFO Jim Cummings, and Budget Director Kim Reed. The sub-committee shared documents related to university-level budget and finance issues for the committee's consideration. The committee also shared overall impressions of the state of the university's budget. This discussion resulted in the identification of broad areas in which the B&FC might take future action:
 - a. Institutional *priorities* regarding budget and finance (e.g. scholarships, buildings, etc.)
 - b. Institutional *policies* regarding budget and finance (e.g. health plan spending, unilateral administrative spending, etc.)

2. In response to the items above, the Committee is considering the following items:
 - a. In light of the proposed construction of a new Confucius Institute building, the committee is considering a resolution or position statement encouraging the creation of a policy that articulates the process by which faculty input is obtained prior to decisions to construct new buildings. The committee is concerned that decisions regarding new construction do not seem to consider long-term costs related to upkeep, maintenance, utilities, etc. The committee would like to see more transparency in the process.
 - b. In light of the Provost's offer to use the B&FC as the sole faculty voice regarding budget and finance issues, the committee is considering a recommendation that the Provost dissolve his current advisory committee and that the Provost instead consult with the B&FC with any budget and finance matters that require feedback. The committee is open to allowing the Provost to invite any additional members to B&FC meetings during which the Provost is requesting feedback. The B&FC would take on tasks requested by the Provost in addition to, and not in lieu of, their current charge.