

Budget and Finance Committee  
Western Kentucky University

Report to the University Senate

Date: February 2, 2015

From: Dr. Andrew West, Chair

The Budget and Finance Committee met on January 13, 2015 and submits the following agenda items for consideration to the University Senate:

1. The committee is pleased to report that in response to email and face-to-face communications regarding agenda items of the Budget and Finance Committee, members of the administration including President Ransdell, Vice President Mead, and Provost Emslie have communicated their willingness to share data, history, and other information that the committee needs in regard to the budget, HR, Internal Audit, and any other areas where we seek clarification or guidance. We applaud the administration's efforts towards transparency and look forward to working with them to strengthen the work that we do at WKU. To that end, the committee is currently working on the following:
  - a. In response to changes in the self-insurance program, and our desire for figures connected to these changes, the committee plans to ask the administration for a written report on WKU's self-insurance plan finances. We will request that such a report include aggregate data on enrollment, costs, benefits paid, and sources of revenue (WKU and employee contributions, as well as any other sources) for the self-insurance program, and data on the status of the reserve fund. We will request that the administration supply similar data for the previous ten years, if possible.
  - b. In response to conversations and discussions pertaining to faculty compensation, the committee plans to ask the administration for a report related to faculty compensation plans, including any plans to institute across-the-board or merit raise pools and descriptions of funding sources for such raise pools. We will also request that the administration supply aggregate data on faculty salary adjustments beyond across-the-board raises (for example, salary compression, gender equity, and benchmark adjustments, merit raises) for the past five years.

In addition to the above items, the committee is also exploring other possible areas related to the budget and finance that we might explore through the acquisition of data.