Budget & Finance Committee Meeting of 2 April 2026: Minutes / Report

The Budget & Finance Committee last met on 03-05-2026. Next Meeting: 05-06-2026

Attending Committee Members (Voting):

Eric Kondratieff, Chair (PCAL, History)
Sophia Arjana (PCAL, History, At-Large)
Daniel Boamah (Alt., CHHS, Social Work)
Greg Ellis-Griffith (At-large, CHHS, Public Health)
Jim Lindsey (GFCB)
Blair Thomas (PCAL, Poli-Sci)
Rui Zhang (OCSE, Chem. & Biochemistry)
Anthony Paganelli (Libraries)
Pallav Bera (Alt., OCSE, SEAS)

Attending Committee Members (Ex-Officio)

Shane Spiller (GFCB, Faculty Regent, Ex-Officio)
Bud Fischer (Provost, Ex-Officio).
Jakob Barker (SGA)

Absent (Voting and Ex-Officio)

Gordon Baylis (At-Large, OCSE, Psych. Sci.)
Said Ghezal (At-Large, CEBS)

Meeting Recap

The Budget and Finance Committee meeting focused primarily on discussing the upcoming committee caucusing on April 16th and determining member participation in the next academic year's committee. Bud Fischer and Shane Spiller provided updates on the FY26 budget finalization and the newly passed state budget, noting that while performance funding remained the same, specific details about cuts and allocations were still being analyzed (the budget had passed the night before our meeting, so no details were available as yet). The committee learned that P3 funding for new residence halls was approved, which will allow the university to move forward with construction plans to address housing concerns and improve student experience. Jacob Barker shared updates from SGA, including its successful tailgate event and upcoming elections, while also asking questions about residence hall plans and the two-year on-campus living requirement. The meeting ended with a scheduling adjustment, moving the next meeting from May 7th to May 6th at 3:45 PM to accommodate the availability of the Provost and Faculty Regent, who will provide details on state funding and its potential impact.

Next Steps

- Next committee meeting moved to May 6th at 3:45 PM.
- Bud and Shane: Review and analyze the new state budget bill and provide more detailed information to the committee at the May 6th meeting.
- Greg and Daniel to determine which will serve as a CHHS member or CHHS alternate for AY 26-27 and communicate their determination to the committee chair.
- All returning and new committee members to attend May 6th meeting to discuss new or ongoing committee leadership, welcome new members, and plan for the upcoming AY.
- Shane: Attend briefing and special call board meeting regarding P3 and budget issues, and report relevant updates to the committee at the May 6th meeting.

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Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order by Eric Kondratieff (3:48 pm)

   A. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 03-05-2026

2. New Business and Reports (Provost and Faculty Regent and SGA)

   A. Planning for Next Year's Committee

   Discussion of upcoming caucus on April 16th and about which current members plan to return to the Budget and Finance Committee. Some members may have different schedules that would impact their availability for the coming year's B&F committee. The committee decided to hold an extra meeting on May 6th (May meetings are not normally scheduled) to meet any new members and vote on leadership, plan for the upcoming AY, etc. This will be on a Wednesday, as both Shane and Bud will be at a Board Meeting on Thursday May 7th and the committee would like to get updates re: state budget / appropriations, WKU's budgeting process, etc.

   B. Budget Updates and Analysis: Provost and Faculty Regent

   Bud provided updates on budget matters, noting that FY26 budget finalization is ongoing, FY27 support unit budgets are in development, and the newly passed state budget requires further analysis to understand its full implications. Bud mentioned that performance funding remains unchanged, but potential cuts and specific allocations for buildings, preservation funds, and IT projects need further examination.

   Shane emphasized the complexity of interpreting the budget due to its recent passage and length, and both agreed that more detailed information would be shared once analyzed.

   C. Campus Housing P3 Project Approval: Provost and Faculty Regent

   Bud confirmed that the P3 project for new residence halls was approved and explained it involves a partnership to build new housing facilities.

   Shane indicated that more clarity on budget and P3 matters would be available by the May 6th committee meeting. He emphasized that improving campus housing is a priority to address enrollment issues and difficulties experienced by students in their current living conditions, noting that some existing residence halls are over 60 years old and need significant upgrades.

   D. P3 Funding and Campus Updates Discussion: SGA Rep, Provost, and Faculty Regent

   Jacob Barker (SGA) asked about P3 funding, which Bud clarified was permission to move forward with the housing plan, ensuring the project would not be stuck with incomplete work. Bud confirmed that the Campus Flats partnership was proceeding as a two-year rental, and while the two-year on-campus living requirement remains unchanged, they are monitoring bed needs due to ongoing construction.

   Jacob also mentioned the upcoming SGA elections and a successful tailgate event hosted before a recent baseball game.

3. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.