

5-9-2013

Council of Chairs Meeting, May 9, 2013

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Recommended Citation

Marshall University, "Council of Chairs Meeting, May 9, 2013" (2013). *Council of Chairs Minutes*. Paper 4.
http://mds.marshall.edu/cc_minutes/4

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COUNCIL OF CHAIRS, 2012-13
Minutes of the Meeting on May 9, 2013, 3:30 p.m.
Room 402 Drinko Library

1. Attendance:

Chairs/Division Heads: Mike Castellani (CHM), Harlan Smith (FIN/ECN), Jeff Archambault (ACC/LE), Dan Holbrook (HST), Marty Laubach (SOC/ANT), Jane Hill (ENG), Denise Landry (NUR), Allen Stern (AST), Karen McNealy (CD), Fred Mader (MGT/MKT/MIS), Paula Lucas (CI), Steve Mewaldt (PSY), Jeff Ruff (RST), Josh Hagen (GEO)

2. Mike Castellani called the meeting to order at (roughly) 3:30 p.m.

3. The topic of discussion was the progress made by the Budget Working Group (BWG) at its meetings of May 6th and May 8th. Dan Holbrook distributed the relevant BWG documents, along with his notes on both meetings, earlier in the day. He took us through these materials carefully, and moderated the discussion as it developed. FYI, these documents will be attached to the Minutes of this meeting when they are circulated for Council review.

- A. By the end of the May 8th BWG meeting, the group had pared down the 2013-14 deficit to roughly \$1.6 million, via the cuts and initiatives laid out in Dan's BWG Meeting Report and identified as Tuition Option 4—the far right column of the Budget Options FY14 document distributed by Dan.
- B. Tuition revenue will increase by roughly \$1.95 million in Tuition Option 4, subject to BOG approval (which has since been granted). The remaining \$1.6 million deficit must be closed on the spending side.
- C. In Tuition Option 4 a line-item under "Use of Funds" is identified as "Salary Enhancement Pool" (SEP). This item contains \$1.25 million, earmarked for faculty and staff pay increases in 2013-14. The SEP came under a great deal of scrutiny at the meeting. While those present welcomed this evidence of the President's commitment to raising salaries across campus, some questioned how pay increases for faculty would be received across campus, even as other spending initiatives are being cut and tuition is being raised. After much back-and-forth discussion Mike asked those present to canvass their faculties on this matter. And he agreed to set up an e-vote, across the entire Council membership, to determine if the majority of Council members support inclusion of the SEP in the 2013-14 budget or would prefer to have it removed.
- D. Update on the SEP: The e-vote exercise led to lots of healthy interaction and communication between Council members and between the Council and Faculty Senate. When the voting came to an end, 30-some members of the Council had voted and a majority of them voted to remove the SEP from the 2013-14 budget. Mike and Dan communicated this information to the BWG and other relevant constituencies (e.g., the Deans).

4. When Dan's presentation and the resulting discussion concluded, the meeting was adjourned.