

**Faculty Senate Committee Annual Report (2018-2019)**  
Respectfully Submitted by Jim Holstun, Chair

**Faculty Senate Committee on: Budget Priorities**

**Charge:** This committee shall appropriately consult, review, report and recommend to the senate and shall advise the Senior Administration on matters concerning the development of the university budget and shall recommend criteria for the allocation for university budgeted funds related to the initiation, development, and implementation of the educational program.

**Roster:**

Carla Jungquist, Nursing  
Charles Zukoski, Provost (*ex officio*)  
Dave Shucard, Neuroscience  
David Mattson, Radiation Oncology  
Domenic Licata, Professional Staff Senate (*ex officio*)  
Donna Fabry, Nursing  
Fred Doloresco, Pharmacy  
George Sanders, Management Science & Systems  
Jason Benedict, Chemistry  
Jim Holstun, English (Chair)  
Jim Lenker, Rehabilitation Science (resigned)  
Joe Lewandowski, Resource Planning (*ex officio*)  
Kate Kost, Social Work  
Ken Dauber, English  
Laura Hubbard, Finance/Administration (*ex officio*)  
Lewis Powell, Philosophy  
Liana Vardi, History  
Mark Swihart, Engineering & Applied Sciences  
Martha McCluskey, Law  
Mary Bisson, Biology  
Michael Detty, Chemistry  
Michael Farkas, Medicine & Biomedical Sciences  
Michael Hatton, Dental Medicine  
Philip Glick, Faculty Senate (*ex officio*)  
Richard Rabin, Pharmacology & Toxicology  
Sean Bennett, Geography  
Stuart Lazar, Law  
Susan Udin, Physiology & Biophysics  
William McDonnell, Architecture & Planning (resigned)

**Report Date:**

May 15, 2019

**Meeting History:**

10/10, 10/24, 11/6, 12/4, 12/11, 2/6, 2/12, 2/25, 4/2.

In addition, the Provost and VPFA scheduled two meetings on the budget process which some Committee members attended (3/26 and 5/3).

**Major Objectives:**

This year, we focused on drafting a GA living stipend resolution for the consideration and possible vote of the FSEC and the full Senate. The FSEC approved our first proposal, and the Senate returned it to us for minor modifications. The FSEC rejected this modified second proposal. The FSEC accepted our third proposal, and the Senate heard a first reading of it on 4/16. On May 14, the Senate passed the resolution unanimously. It will create Living Stipend Solutions Committee, which is tasked to establish a living stipend for UB GAs, RAs, and TAs by AY 2020-2021. It also calls on the Administration to “make available all data needed by the committee to carry out their charge.”

This was our main work for the year, but we tried to go further and fulfill our full committee charge. On December 11, we asked Provost Zukoski and Vice President Hubbard for the data we needed to begin a systematic review of the budget. They did not respond. We repeated this request on January 12, March 9, April 3, and May 8. They did not respond.

Without this data, we failed to fulfill our charge, despite our best efforts. The other two bodies tasked with overseeing UB’s budget also seem to have failed. *NYS Education Law* directs the SUNY Board of Trustees to review and revise budget requests of all SUNY universities and colleges (§355.4.a-c). But the Trustees’ webpage does not show them doing any such thing. The same law directs the UB Council to review the UB president’s yearly budget request and recommend it to the Board of Trustees (§356.3.d). But the Council’s agendas and minutes show it hasn’t publicly reviewed or recommended a budget request since at least December 2013.

So New York State, SUNY, and the UB Faculty Senate agree that the UB Administration should lead in forming the annual budget, but with informed participation and oversight by the Board of Trustees, the UB Council, and the Senate Budget Priorities Committee. This oversight is there on the books for a good, conservative reason: more knowledge and more perspectives are better than less. But all three oversight bodies have now ground to a halt. This is cause for alarm. If this committee agrees, it can begin fixing the

problem—not by creating something new, but by reviving and activating the provisions that are already in place.

**Emerging Objectives:**

The Budget Priorities Committee, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and the Faculty Senate should persuade the UB Administration to provide the Committee with the data we need to fulfill our committee charge.

The Budget Priorities Committee has discussed one additional possible solution to these problems, which would follow the basic principles of shared governance that Senate Chair Philip Glick has highlighted for four years. The SUNY Budget Office and the SUNY Faculty Senate Operations Committee have recommended that each SUNY campus form a budget committee including administration, faculty, professional staff, students, and university council representation. A number of SUNY colleges and the other three university centers have instituted such committees. These committees don't just study the budget process. They create budgets. With some Senate initiative, UB could follow suit.

**Potential Work Products or Milestones for Completion of Objectives:**

Our primary “work product” consists of our three proposals for a GA living stipend. Given that the Provost and VPFA have withheld the data we need to fulfill our charge, future milestones are difficult to project.

**Timeline for Completion of Objectives:**

Given that the Provost and VPFA have withheld the data we need to fulfill our charge, this timeline is difficult to project.

**Specific actions requiring FSEC approval:**

The Senate’s Living Stipend Resolution might mean the FSEC would be asked to name the faculty members of a Living Stipend Solutions Committee.

**FS Committee General Comments:**

**FSEC Comments**