

## Committee on Priorities and Resources

### Meeting Minutes – February 29, 2012

In attendance: Assistant Director Carol Allman-Morton, Prof. Rob Benedetto, Dean of the Faculty Gregory Call, *ex officio*, Technical Services Associate Mark Fiegenbaum, Associate Treasurer/Director of the Budget Shannon Gurek, *ex officio*, Alex Hurst '12, Prof. Nasser Hussain, chair, Prof. Jagu Jagannathan, Prof. Karen Sánchez-Eppler, Treasurer Peter Shea, *ex officio*, George Tepe '14 and Sarah Barr, recorder. Guests: Director of Athletics Suzanne Coffey and Director of Facilities/Associate Treasurer for Campus Services James Brassord.

Not in attendance: Luke Lavin '13 and Director of Human Resources Maria-Judith Rodriguez, *ex officio*.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

1. Introductions - Members of the committee introduced themselves to Suzanne Coffey.
2. Athletics/Physical Education Budget Request - Suzanne Coffey presented the budget summary for Athletics/Physical Education, which included a 4.1% increase in spending over FY2012. The increase comes from the following areas:
  - a. Salary and Benefits - The budget includes a small increase in salary and benefits, which is consistent with campus-wide increases.
  - b. Sports Medicine - There is a small increase in the cost of supplies for the sports medicine staff as well as the contract for the team doctor.
  - c. Pool - The budget includes a one-time request for the funding to replace the diving boards and touch pads.
  - d. Fees and Costs for Sports - Funding was requested to cover the cost of the boathouse lease and gas since both expenses have increased in the last year.
  - e. Travel - The Athletic Department chooses to send its athletes to events at different times even if they are competing at the same school so students can stay in class longer. In order to maintain this policy, additional funding is needed for athlete travel.
  - f. Title IX - The CPR asked Suzanne about the college's Title IX compliance. She explained that the college reports its funding of sports teams to the federal government in order to comply with the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act. The total amount of funding per student is equitable.
3. Minutes – Minutes from February 15, 2012 were approved.
4. Academic Year 2012-2013 CPR Meetings – The meeting schedule for next year was discussed but a time was not finalized.
5. Amherst College Below-line Budget Requests for 2013 – Shannon Gurek presented an overview of the below-line requests. Over the next few weeks, the CPR will meet with department heads to discuss their individual requests.
6. Facilities Budget Request – Jim Brassord presented information about the budget request for Facilities, which included a 4.6% increase in spending over FY2012. The increase comes from the following areas:
  - a. FTE Requests – Facilities would like to reinstate three positions eliminated during the economic downturn (carpenter, custodian, and groundskeeper), increase the furniture & equipment design/procurement position by .2 FTE, hire a .5 FTE in Design & Construction for administrative support during the science center construction project, and hire a detective.

- b. Deferred Maintenance – This year, the college will restore the deferred maintenance budget to pre-2008 levels, which was reduced during the ABC process.
- c. Utility Costs – The cost of utilities are down by 10% because of efficiency of the co-gen plant, energy conservation measures, and a new contract with Berkshire Gas.
- d. Dining Services – Dining services is requesting a 6% increase in the food budget and an increase in the number of casual employees so they can staff the café in Frost Library. Students expressed an interest in increasing the availability of food after 7:30 pm. Jim will meet with Charlie Thompson to consider various options and follow up with AAS.
- e. Overall Facilities Performance – For the last several years, Amherst College has used the services of Sitelines, a facilities consulting firm. The firm uses data to evaluate the performance of facilities based on four areas: annual stewardship, asset reinvestment, operational effectiveness, and service. The college has chosen to focus on planned maintenance instead of reactive maintenance, which has allowed the college to spend less on facilities crises.

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 14 at 4 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Barr