

Committee on Priorities and Resources  
Meeting Minutes - September 27, 2022

In Attendance: Professor Nusrat Chowdhury, chair; Professor John Rager; Professor Frederick Griffiths; Professor Jonathan Obert; Interim Chief Financial Officer Thomas Dwyer, *ex officio*; Provost and Dean of the Faculty Catherine Epstein, *ex officio*; Chief Human Resources Officer, Kate Harrington, *ex officio*; Assistant Director of Family Giving, Emily Ziomek; Mollie Hartenstein '23; Steven Hegarty, recorder

Not in attendance: Interim Director of Financial Planning, Ashley Travis, *ex officio*

The meeting came to order at 8:45 am.

Proceedings:

Tom presented the FY23 budget overview from the May Trustees meeting, Budget & Finance committee

1. The FY23 operating budget incorporates several strategic enhancements for the college while also addressing challenges from rising inflation.
2. The strategic deployment of the FY21 endowment return is to:
  - a. Enhance financial aid awards
  - b. Increase faculty research funding
  - c. Provide competitive salaries and benefits
  - d. Support the lowest paid staff
  - e. Invest in new staff positions that focus on risk management and academic/student support
3. Challenges are:
  - a. Inflationary pressure
  - b. A difficult labor market
  - c. Investment market conditions
  - d. Ongoing COVID pandemic
4. Notes on the FY23 budget:
  - a. The operating budget grew 10.3% from \$217.5m in FY22 to \$239.9m in FY23
  - b. Revenue estimates assume a 0% investment return. There is also a \$150m carve-out of the endowment to support future operating costs of the student center/ dining commons.
  - c. The college is balancing its budget with multi-year supplemental endowment distributions due to the strategic investments and inflation. There is a timetable in place to reduce and eliminate the supplemental, and the overall distribution will remain within the spending cap.
  - d. For the purpose of recruitment and retention of faculty and staff, the college raised salaries and wages 5% on July 1, along with earlier increases in April for employees making less than \$85k per year. A number of casual positions are now converted to benefitted staff, especially in Dining.
  - e. COVID expenses will continue in FY23. These are declining but still continuing for ongoing testing, tents, and other needs.

5. Capital planning update

- a. Current major projects are the Student Center/Dining Commons, Lyceum, and the Climate Action Plan. The college is relying on fundraising to a greater degree, along with endowment support and debt issuance.

Adjourned 9:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
S Hegarty