

Report of the Senate Budget Review Committee
2012-2013

The Senate Budget Review Committee was formed in 2011. Its membership is:

- Vice-President (Academic) [co-Chair]
- Vice-President (Finance and Administration) [co-Chair]
- One Dean or Associate Dean
- Two Senators
- Eight faculty members, two from each of the four areas
- One UWSA senator

The Associate Vice-President (Finance and Operations) provides support to the committee as required.

The responsibilities of the Committee were:

1. to consider and provide advice to Senate with respect to the academic and research implications of budgetary issues, having regard for Senate's responsibility for academic policy, and the President's responsibility to present an annual budget to the Board of Regents for approval;
2. to analyze preliminary budget and estimates documents from the perspective of academic priorities, having regard for the University's academic mission;
3. to meet regularly, at appropriate times, with the President's budget team, as the budget is developed over the course of each year, in order to provide timely input and contribute to the budgetary process.

In 2013, the Committee met for two hours on each of these dates: January 13, 2013 and April 5, 2013, with an additional meeting planned in the spring of 2013 prior to the Board of Regents' approval of the Budget.

Among the discussion topics during the Committee's deliberations were:

- The structure and pressure points of the University's budget, including a discussion of revenue and expense expectations for the coming year and beyond.
- Budgetary priorities for current and future years
- Alternatives to deal with budgetary challenges in the current period of government austerity and tuition regulation. Some of the items discussed included: on-line learning, more flexible scheduling, and new programs which may provide positive financial spin-offs (credentials for foreign professionals, etc...).
- The impact of Senate decisions on resource allocations