

Budget Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 24, 2025
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Chancellor's Conference Room, MCM 209

Members Present: Richard Beer, Kim Hayworth, Heather Hanna, Brett Weisz, Joann Stryker, Vern Gagnon, Jennifer Scroggins, Suzette Nynas, Craig McKenzie, Nicole Bookheimer

Absent: Leslie Weldon, Kurt Toenjes, Joy Honea, Elijah Sneigoski, Tim Hofferber

Guests: Baylee Hrubes, Malia Soyland

1. Call to Order *Heather Hanna*

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes Approved

3. University Information/Announcements Legislative Updates

Tuition increases are unknown currently

MSU Presidential Search Advisory Committee has announced two finalists.

HB13 - increase the base pay of each employee by \$1 an hour or by 2.5%, whichever is greater, each year of the 2027 biennium

4. Action Items

None

5. Public Comment/Member Feedback

Discussion regarding campus departmental managers spending authority and staying within their budget. Committee emphasized that department managers need to follow budgets.

Discussed options of placing a limit on waivers with financial aid as well as scholarships.

Discussed need to hold budget managers accountable to a fixed number of scholarships.

Discussed possible ideas, e.g. investigating consequences of limits on waivers, developing thresholds or distributing waiver funds by percentages.

Committee wants to explore if OCHE can survey MUS on how other universities disperse funds for waivers, what are their criteria?

Discussed re-allocating money to programs where more students will be affected: Yellowstone Excellence vs. Athletics

Question on process: how does the Budget Advisory Council formally make recommendations to the Chancellor, Vice Chancellors and Provost to adjust budgets for waivers and scholarships? Vice Chancellors can bring recommendations to Chancellor. Brett will discuss a form option with Leslie.

Discussion on the qualifications for waivers. Which would benefit the student to reach success versus giving waiver/scholarships to those who have extenuating factors outside of the university that would prevent them from reaching graduation. Placing funds where the desirable outcome will be achieved.

Establish criterion for waivers and scholarships. Do a comparison of retention rates by looking at high school GPA.

Look at what we have in the budget vs. what is being spent.

How much bad debt is coming from returning financial aid funds? What is that number? Is it manageable?

What are ways to minimize bad debt and what factors are causing bad debt?

6. Training and Data Review

None

4:15 Meeting Adjourned

**Next Meeting
Monday, April 28, 2025
3:00 – 4:00 pm**