

## FACULTY BUDGET COMMITTEE

### ANNUAL REPORT

2009-2010

According to *The Faculty Manual* of the University of South Carolina-Columbia, “the Faculty Budget Committee serves as a liaison between the University Administration and the University Faculty (through the Faculty Senate) on matters pertaining to the University budget, advocates the faculty perspective on matters of budget and budgetary policy, and provides a venue for discussing faculty questions and concerns about the University budget and budgeting process.”

In March 2009 the committee began crafting a survey regarding budget issues that was administered to the faculty in November 2009. There were 437 respondents to the survey, and the data have been posted to the Faculty Budget Committee webpage, which is accessed through the Faculty Senate website. The President, Provost, and Vice President for Finance and Planning received full reports, and the Academic Deans received full reports regarding their units. The survey revealed that more than half of the faculty is very unfamiliar with the current Budget Model, and that an overwhelming majority of the faculty wish to receive regular information regarding budget and financial issues. There is some evidence that unit leaders have already begun to make more financial information available to their faculties.

The succession of budget cuts the University has suffered since the beginning of the 2008-2009 academic year has been the major item of consideration for the Faculty Budget Committee in this year. Dr. Ted Moore, Vice President for Finance and Planning, met with committee on several occasions to brief the members about current conditions as well as strategies under consideration. In some cases the committee was invited to offer recommendations about specific issues, and the committee was pleased to do so. The committee wishes to express appreciation to Dr. Moore for his dedicated service to the University and for his interest in helping to maintain the faculty voice in University budget issues.

As in past years, a series of meetings between unit administrators and personnel from the Office of the Provost and Budget Office personnel were scheduled in March and April 2010 so that the units could present their strategic plans as well as their plans for meeting budget reduction goals. In April and May 2010, the service units and regional campuses made similar presentations to the President, Provost, and Budget Office personnel. Although elements of strategic planning were included, budget issues dominated the presentations of most of the units. Professor Patrick Nolen, Faculty Senate Chair, and Professor Andrew Gowan, Faculty Budget Committee Chair, were invited to all of these presentations, and they attended those meetings that their schedules would allow. Professor Gowan made a positive report to the Faculty Senate in May 2010 regarding the efficacy of the plans presented and the fiscal competence of the unit administrators, University administrators, and Budget Office personnel involved in these meetings.

“To accomplish its purpose, the Faculty Budget Committee shall have input into University budget policy in two ways. First, the Chair of the Faculty Budget Committee, the other two elected members, and the President of the Faculty Senate will be welcomed to attend the President’s Budget Hearings. Second, the Chair of the Budget Committee, the immediate past

Chair of the Budget Committee, and the Chair of the Faculty Senate shall serve on the University Finance Committee.” The “University Finance Committee” referenced here in the current language of the *Faculty Manual* is the same entity as the “University-level budget policy committee” mentioned in the previous *Faculty Manual* language. This committee has not been active since the present budget model was put in place more than a half-dozen years ago. In Spring 2009, President Pastides convened the Focus Carolina: Operating Resources Committee, and this committee (whose membership is the same as the afore-mentioned University Finance Committee) had an initial meeting on April 22, 2009. Another meeting of this committee was scheduled for July 2009, but it was rescheduled and subsequently cancelled. It is anticipated that there will be a review of the current budget model and tax structure when the next meeting occurs. Both the Focus Carolina: Operating Resources Committee and the University Finance Committee include the Chair of the Faculty Budget Committee and the Chair of the Faculty Senate, and any activity of either committee may be viewed as positive movement toward the inclusion of the faculty voice in the budgetary decisions of the University. The fact that former USC faculty members now hold major leadership positions in the University is surely an encouraging indicator for the future of shared governance on this campus.

The membership of the 2009-10 Faculty Budget Committee has included:

Michael Amiridis, ex-officio	Provost
Andrew Gowan, Chair	Music (elected, term expires in 2010)
Duncan Alford	Law (elected, term expires in 2011)
Camelia Knapp	Earth and Oceans Sciences (elected, term expires in 2012)
Patrick Nolan	Sociology (Faculty Senate Chair)
Robert Best	Medicine (Faculty Senate Past Chair)
Harold Friedman	Medicine (Faculty Advisory Chair)
Mathieu Deflem	Sociology (Faculty Advisory Past Chair)
Charley Adams	Public Health (Faculty Welfare Chair)
Beth Bilderback	Libraries (Faculty Welfare Past Chair)

The Faculty Budget Committee commends the current chair for his efforts to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of the Faculty Budget Committee. Professor Duncan Alford (Law) has been elected to chair the Faculty Budget Committee in 2010-2011. Professor Bo Cai (Public Health) will join the committee as the new elected member.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Gowan, Chair  
Faculty Budget Committee