



### **Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC)**

Minutes of Meeting: 4/24/25

Circulated: 9/5/25

Approved: 9/11/25

Present: Julie Boland, Sara Soderstrom (Chair), Becky Peterson, Geoffrey Chatas (EVP and CFO) Daniel Nemser, Gillian White, Jefferson Williams

Absent: Francine Dolins, Vance Jackson, Vilma Mesa, Hsiao Sung, Pamela Wong

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

**2:04pm-2:05pm:** Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the 3/19 and 3/21 FAAC meetings were approved.

**2:05pm-2:37pm: UM Budget: what scenarios are being considered for navigating different potential national funding levels?**

Summary: The Chair introduces the topic. Given the changes at the federal level, it has become necessary to consider various options to maintain UM's financial health. EVP Chatas provides an update on the status of the University's finances. The current cash balance is rising, which is positive. UM has received approximately 71 stop work orders since January. EVP Chatas provides figures as to how much liquidity the university currently has. These funds can be spent, but the opportunity cost is discussed. It is necessary to be very considerate when spending, given the evolving circumstances.

The [new research funding program](#) meant to provide funding to researchers is discussed. It is focused on helping anyone who receives stop-work orders and funding terminations.

A discussion takes place on how UM will adapt if some of the suggested alterations to federal funding proposed by the executive branch are permanently implemented. An example mentioned is the proposed 15% cap on indirect cost. EVP Chatas indicates that UM would need to make up the difference if that were to occur. The federal budget process is reviewed.

The bigger unknown is if UM will receive the same level of federal research funding. The grant review process is slowing down, although some are being approved. Further discussion on this topic takes place.

Enrollment is expected to be steady, as there is a high number of applicants. International student enrollment is discussed. The endowment is discussed and is currently doing well. Questions are asked and answered about how UM would respond to a significant federal funding freeze. Upper administration, as well as unit level leadership, has been considering various scenarios. Hiring practices are discussed.

Action: Discussion

**2:37pm-2:39pm: Update on Investment Values Committee**

Summary: EVP Chatas is happy with the Investment Values Committee as currently written. Others will review the proposal, and it is expected to be approved and implemented soon.

Action: Update

**2:39pm-2:52pm: Discussion on potential objectives for next year's committee**

Summary: The committee offers suggestions as to the work that the committee can pursue during the next academic year. Suggestions include the following:

- Topic: Work Connections
- Topic: the future of funding of higher education
- How to collaborate with other Senate Assembly Committees. It is indicated that there should be regular meetings with the AAAC due to the General Fund. It is suggested that the committee have Tom Finholt join meetings regularly.
- Regular financial report at the beginning of each meeting
- Prioritize 1.5-hour meetings
  - o Having meeting time with the committee only is praised
- Topic: covering other areas the fall under EVP Chatas's purview

Action: Discussion

**2:52pm:** Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe  
Faculty Governance Coordinator  
Faculty Senate Office