



Financial Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 9/11/25

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Present: Becky Peterson (Chair), Dale Thomson, Julie Boland, Geoff Chatas (EVP and CFO), Jefferson Williams, Emily Luxon, Bobby Hewlett (Vice President for Finance), Kentaro Toyama (SACUA), Hsiao Sung, Stefanie Russman Block, Sara Soderstrom

Absent: Vance Jackson, Gillian White

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

1:02pm-1:11pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements, Introductions

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the April FAAC meeting will be reviewed in the next meeting. Introductions are made.

1:11pm-1:50pm: Overview of the financial structure and operations of the University, and Remit of the EVP CFO.

Summary: EVP Chatas provides an introduction of his and his office's remit. Bobby Hewlett, VP for Finance, joins the meeting to provide a closer look at the structural organization and duties of the Business and Finance sector of UM. The official organization chart for the office is shared. A wide range of offices fall under the EVPCFO's umbrella. These include Facilities and Operations, Finance, Staff Ombuds, Investment, University Human Resources, Shared Services Center, Campus Sustainability, and the Office of Planning and Strategic Resources. A brief description of the duties these offices undertake are described.

A question is posed by a member regarding the specific financial system that UM uses, including how money moves centrally and out to the individual units. This question is answered by VP Hewlett. The systems are rooted in the M-Pathways as the source of record. In certain cases, there are additional steps related to the variety of sub-systems that support M-Pathways. Peer institution systems are briefly discussed.

A question is asked about the current system of central administration reviewing all hiring decisions, which was implemented in the wake of actions taken by the federal government that has led to financial uncertainty. EVP Chatas indicates that this process is a review, not a decision-making process. It will be reevaluated during regular intervals and will likely go away at a certain point. A member discusses how there are other points in the approval process at the unit and school levels.

Topics for future meetings are discussed. A member suggests that the committee should discuss the new travel policy that took place on 7/1/25 in which University employees are required to use the CTP platform to book travel arrangements. VP Hewlett has been communicating with the SACUA Chair regarding this. A faculty CTP task force has been



established and will meet with the appropriate administration personnel at regular intervals to offer feedback and suggestions regarding this policy.

The presentation continues, with an explanation and visual representation of the Diversified Revenue Base/Complex Funds Flows shared. Specific questions regarding academic funding are asked and answered.

A breakdown of the 2024 Revenues for operating activities is shared. This is followed by a breakdown of the consolidated statement of net position since 2020. Questions are asked and answered regarding this.

The University's budget model is shared. The six major budgeting units are the General Fund (Academic Enterprise), Student Life, Health Care, Dearborn, Flint, and Athletics. The Budget is reviewed for approval by the Regents in June every year. A description of the academic enterprise's budget model is discussed in detail. Questions are asked and answered.

Action: Presentation and discussion

1:50pm-2:01pm: Overview of committee charge and plan for meetings this year

Summary: Chair Peterson provides the committee with an overview of the committee roster and Charge for the academic year. These are available for the committee to review in the committee's shared Google Drive that was shared with the members over the summer. Chair Peterson describes the purpose of the Charge, as well as SACUA. Further committee resources are shared with the members. After further discussion, the meeting concludes.

Action: Discussion

2:01pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office