

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
STRATEGIC BUDGETING AND PLANNING
February 18, 2021

Present: Scott Case, Carol Cash, Terry Clements, William Dougherty, Jeff Earley, John Fike, Daniel Harrington, Donald Hatfield, Jia-Qiang He, Tim Hodge, Erin McCann, Joell Eifert, Joe Merola, Ken Miller, and Liza Morris.

Absent with Notice: Cyril Clarke, Bob Hicok and Michael Sorice

Absent: Angel Carter and Ed Lener

Guests: David Crotts (substitute for Ken Miller)

1. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of January 21, 2021

The January 21, 2021 minutes have been approved and forwarded to the University Council for posting on the web.

2. Old Business

No old business.

3. New Business

No new business.

4. Presentation

Tim Hodge, Associate Vice President of Budget and Financial Planning, provided an update on the 2020-22 state budget as of Crossover. Mr. Hodge reminded the Council that the Governor released his Executive Amendments to the 2020-22 biennial budget on December 16, 2020. Mr. Hodge shared those amendments in a previous meeting with the Council. The House and Senate review the Governor's budget and propose incremental changes to the Executive Budget. The Higher Education Unified Amendment was a joint amendment submitted by Virginia public colleges and universities requesting additional support for operations and covid19 testing. Both the House and Senate supported the amendment to which VT would be allocated \$4 million in support for operations. Both the House and Senate also supported additional statewide funds for Covid19 testing.

In the Executive Amendments, \$1.6 million of Student Financial Aid was restored to Virginia Tech, with the Senate proposing an additional \$22 million pool from the Governor's Education Emergency Relief (GEER) federal funds, in which VT's allocation is not yet known. For the Cooperative Extension & Agricultural Experiment Station Division, the House and Senate proposed an allocation of \$600,000 and \$1.6 million respectively in base support, with additional one-time support of \$6.1 million for technology upgrades and equipment by the House.

The House and Senate addressed compensation by proposing to replace the Executive Amendment one-time bonus with a 3.5% (House) or 3% (Senate) salary increase, based on performance, contingent upon state revenue performance. The House added additional wording excluding higher education employees earning \$150,000 or more from the proposed increase. The House and Senate also supported the Executive Amendment adding \$100 million in one-time funding to reduce VRS liability and lowering the state employee retiree health insurance credit costs to employers from 1.25% to 1.12% which would help hold down the university's fringe benefit rates.

The House also proposed language requiring Board of Visitors of public institutions of higher education post contact information for each board member, including email addresses on their websites. Mr. Hodge reminded the Council that the House and Senate nominate conferees to the conference committee where they will reconcile the House and Senate budgets into one consolidated budget. The General Assembly is set to adjourn on March 1, 2021. A copy of the handout is attached to these minutes.

5. Other Items

Council member asked a question regarding the graduate candidacy status resolution, which is expected to bring a new tuition rate before the BOV during their March meeting.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.