

2024-2025 Year-End Committee Report

Committee:	Budget & Planning
Charge:	The Budget and Planning Committee collaborates with administrative offices to ensure that planning processes for the University are aligned with academic values and faculty interests.
Chair:	Michael Fishman
# of Meetings:	4

Completed Business and/or Accomplishments

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Unfinished/Continuing Business

After much deliberation, the Senate Budget & Planning committee (B&P) chose a goal of providing access to the NU budgeting process to one or two members of (B&P). Access here refers to inviting one or two faculty Senators to attend some subset of the NU budget meetings. The faculty Senators could then, hopefully, better understand (i) the nature of the financial tradeoffs faced by NU; and (ii) the priorities that guide the choices made by NU. These faculty Senators could share what they have observed and learned with the rest of the Senate. Two faculty Senators (rather than one) would give these Senators an opportunity to bounce ideas off the other Senator.

With such an arrangement, information can flow two ways: from NU Budgeting to the faculty and the reverse. With one or two members of (B&P) sitting in on NU Budgeting meetings, we believe that the faculty member(s) and the administrators will grow to “trust” one another – importantly, this will include the trust to keep sensitive information confidential.

Our goal nicely dovetails with the simultaneous reform of the NU budgeting process that is under way.

Mandy Distel (NU VP and CFO) and Daniel Durack (NU Senior Associate VP for Budget and Planning) seem generally supportive of this initiative. But given the uncertainty currently surrounding NU finances, Mandy and Daniel have not had the time to engage with (B&P). Indeed, they stopped answering my emails. Please note that I totally understand. Their attention is needed elsewhere.

I believe that it is worthwhile pursuing this opportunity in 2025-2026. And I believe that the other members of (B&P) would agree.

New Business for Next Year