

2020-2021 Year-End Committee Report

Committee:	Budget and Planning
Charge:	The Budget and Planning Committee collaborates with administrative offices to ensure that budget and planning for the University are aligned with academic values and faculty interests.
Chair:	Martin Lariviere
# of Meetings:	Two formal Zoom meetings plus various rounds of email

Completed Business and/or Accomplishments

The principle goal for the year was to implement the framework worked out last year for the faculty to have a greater involvement in the University's budgeting process. This involved having the chair attend several meetings of the Resource Planning Working group.

The committee also generated a report for the Senate related to the possibility of restoring retirement contributions from 2020.

Unfinished/Continuing Business

The involvement with the Resource Planning Working group likely needs some refinement. This group spends a lot of time out in the weeds – e.g., evaluating whether to replace AV equipment in different auditoriums. Many of the proposed projects have long backstories and specific working group members have detailed knowledge of the projects. Additionally, the working group is largely ranking projects without knowing the ultimate budget. Attending is watching the sausage being made but it is unclear how to effectively contribute.

The committee proposed two resolutions at the May Senate meeting; both passed. To my knowledge, we have had no response from the administration. One of these called for the University to explain how it would use the ability to suspend retirement contributions in the future. That is an important point to follow up on. There may be a question of whether that falls to this committee or the benefits committee.

New Business for Next Year

None known.