

2022-2023 Year-End Committee Report

Committee:	Budget and Planning
Charge:	Collaborates with administrative offices to ensure that planning processes for the University are aligned with academic values and faculty interests
Chair:	Therese McGuire
# of Meetings:	Four, including one with President Schill and Provost Hagerty (see below). The committee met over zoom on October 26, 2022, March 7, 2023, and May 23, 2023

Completed Business and/or Accomplishments

The committee reviewed relevant portions of an OWF letter (addressed to President Schill and BOT Chair Barris; dated October 1, 2022) and reported back to the full Faculty Senate at its November meeting on the committee's plans for further inquiry, study, and potential action

The committee met in person with Mike Schill, Kathleen Hagerty, Daniel Durack, and Mandy Distel on March 14, 2023 for a conversation around three topics:

1. The process for aligning the budget with the university's priorities
2. How special draws on the endowment are decided upon
3. Whether there is sufficient faculty input and feedback on the budget

The committee chair agreed to pursue on behalf of the committee during summer 2023 two avenues for committee discussion and potential action early in fall 2023. The two avenues/topics stemmed from the committee's conversation with the President and the Provost on March 14, 2023:

1. The endowment spend percentage – We agreed it would be interesting to learn more about peer universities to see how Northwestern's percentage compares. Ideally, we would like to learn about both the level of the percentage and the formula that's used, but the level is the thing of most interest. Does Northwestern spend a smaller percentage out of its endowment to cover operating expenses than other universities with similar sized endowments? Are the endowment spend percentages at peer universities with larger/smaller endowments different from Northwestern's endowment spend percentage?
 - a. Tricia agreed to conduct research on the topic over the course of the summer
2. The faculty role in the budgeting process – From what we learned in the March 14 meeting, it seems the faculty role in the budgeting process is currently happening in whatever way each Dean chooses to involve faculty before they make requests to the President and Provost. It would be interesting to explore whether there could (or should) be a more explicit role for the Faculty Senate to play in that process. Or, put differently, should there be a more direct way for faculty to express their views about budgeting to the President and Provost?

- a. The chair will reach out to Daniel Durack and Mandy Distel to request an exploratory conversation to occur over the course of the summer. Committee member Jon Guryan has agreed to join in the conversation

Unfinished/Continuing Business

The two items listed above:

1. A comparative study of Northwestern's endowment spend percentage
2. An exploration of the faculty role in Northwestern's budgeting process

New Business for Next Year

NA