

2025-2026 Year-End Committee Report

Committee:	Budget and 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:	Andrea Graham
# of Meetings:	2

Completed Business and/or Accomplishments

In January 2026, there was a committee leadership transition in which Faculty Senate President Dr. Ian Hurd invited senator Dr. Andrea Graham to serve as committee chair. Dr. Graham was approved at the Faculty Senate Meeting on January 21.

Dr. Graham convened the Budget & Planning Committee on February 6 for a discussion of goals and plans for the remainder of the year. The meeting primarily centered on what was discussed at the January Faculty Senate meeting, when Mandy Distel (VP and CFO) and Kathleen Hagerty (Provost) presented the annual financial address and shared the status of Northwestern's budget model reform process. The committee agreed on their interest in meeting with the university's leadership to discuss the budget model reform process and its future roll-out.

Subsequently, a request to meet with VP Distel was sent, who graciously agreed and a meeting was scheduled.

The committee met with VP Distel and Daniel Durack (Senior Associate VP for Budget and Planning) on April 14. During this meeting, the university leaders gave an update on the budget reform planning process, which was still in the planning phase. The committee voiced interest in being part of the model implementation process, such as by helping surface faculty perspectives during the pilot roll-out.

Advocacy for faculty involvement in the budget model reform process was also voiced at the Quarterly Summit Meeting on April 6, which is attended by both the Faculty Senate Executive Committee members and several university leaders include VP Distel.

Relatedly, outside of the committee, Faculty Senate leadership continues to meet with and advocate for faculty involvement in the budget reform process.

Unfinished/Continuing Business
It is recommended that next year includes a continued focus on faculty involvement and perspective sharing, where appropriate, in the budget model reform process and its implementation.
New Business for Next Year