



PLANNING & BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 25, 2026

Time: 9:00AM

Voting Members	Title	Present?
Raaj Kurapati	Executive Vice Chancellor and COO	Yes
Dr. Ashley Harkrider	Interim Dean - College of Health Professions	Yes
Dr. Cindy Russell	VC for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs	Yes
Dr. Jessica Snowden	VC for Research	Yes
Dr. Wendy Likes	Dean - Nursing	Yes
Dr. Mike Hocker	Dean - Medicine	Yes
Dr. Reginald Frye	Dean - Pharmacy	No
Peggy Reisser	Staff Senate President	Yes
Dr. Karen Derefinko	Faculty Senate President	No
Dr. Ken Tilashalski	Dean - Dentistry	Yes
Dr. Charles Snyder	VC for Student Success	Yes
Dr. Karla Leeper	VC for Communications and Marketing	Yes
Non-Voting Members	Title	Present?
Michael Ebbs	AVC, Financial Strategy	Yes
George Ninan	AVC, Financial Operations	Yes
Melissa Moore	Associate General Counsel	Yes
Benjie Harmon	AVC Financial Planning and Budget	Yes

Approve Agenda & Minutes from Prior Meetings

- **AGENDA:** The agenda was reviewed by Mr. Raaj Kurapati.



- **MINUTES:** Minutes from the January 28, 2026 meeting were reviewed by Mr. Raaj Kurapati, and then he called for a motion to accept. The motion was made by Dr. Jessica Snowden, with Dr. Wendy Likes seconding the motion. The minutes were approved with no additions.

General Update - Raaj

- Mr. Kurapati kicked off the meeting by general budget constraints, and, before the strategic budget conversations and discussions commenced, reiterated the focus of revenue generating investments. Additionally, Raaj emphasized Governor Lee's budget proposal and how there were no additional operating funds allocated to UTHSC and that the proposed COLA adjustments were not fully funded in the proposed budget dollars allocated to UTHSC. This was mentioned so the group would keep in mind that there was little new money to fund recurring requests, and it would be generated by increases in net tuition revenue. Additionally, that barring legislative changes to the governor's proposed funding of his proposed COLA adjustment, new tuition revenue would need to cover the unfunded piece of the proposed adjustment.

LMS Review

- There were no new updates on the status of the LMS system. The group discussed needs out of the LMS system and the need for a new system to be compatible with other systems and maintaining functionality with clinical components/systems.

Strategic Budget Discussions

- Raaj led the group as we began discussing each member's strategic budget requests where the source of funds were central university funds.



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- We discussed the majority of the consolidated lists with each VC or Dean explaining the request.
- Each voting member was asked to provide a ranking and submit to Benjie prior to the next meeting so the budget request rankings could be consolidated and averaged.

Closing Statements

- Raaj Kurapati ended the meeting at approximately 9:35 AM