



PLANNING & BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 27, 2026

Time: 9:30AM

| Voting Members | Title | Present? |
|----------------------|--|----------|
| Raaj Kurapati | Executive Vice Chancellor and COO | Yes |
| Dr. Ashley Harkrider | 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 | No |
| Dr. Mike Hocker | Executive Dean - Medicine | Yes |
| Dr. Reginald Frye | Dean - Pharmacy | Yes |
| Peggy Reisser | Staff Senate President | Yes |
| Dr. Karen Derefinko | Faculty Senate President | Yes |
| 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 | No |
| 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 March 31, 2026 meeting were reviewed by Mr. Raaj Kurapati, and then he called for a motion to accept. The motion was made by Dr. Charlie Snyder with Dr. Cindy Russell seconding.



General Update - Raaj

- Mr. Kurapati gave a brief discussion about our institution's financial trajectory over the past few years, moving from a \$55 million budget deficit, to the recovery and building of reserves within the first three years.

Budget Presentation

- Raaj presented the budget proposal as will be presented to the Advisory Board. Included in the presentation were a history of where we had been and how we had recovered the past three years, including the ability to make strategic investments this year for the betterment and growth of the institution.
- Also included in the budget presentation was a discussion of a plan to strategically invest in employees through salary adjustments on a tiered level, although specific rates had not yet been determined. Additionally, he discussed moving toward a performance-based merit system and making one-time bonuses available for performance this year, and how they would be funded, with both the institution and individual colleges and administrative units providing equal dollar amounts toward the funding of any approved performance-based bonuses. He also challenged each dean to rethink how evaluations are handled to ensure an equitable distribution of performance-based incentives.
- Strategic investments were also discussed and Raaj provided a listing of the recurring and one-time investments that would be proposed to the advisory board for approval. These were included in the slide presentation and included the strategic investment requests submitted and ranked to be funded by the PBC committee at the previous meeting.

Academic LMS Review Status and Update on EAB Navigate system



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- Dr. Russell and Dr. Snyder gave a brief update of the current LMS status.
- Dr. Syder gave an update on the EAB Navigate program and how it will enhance student services and streamline information needed to better serve students timely. Dr. Snyder stated that EAB Navigate would be initially launched the following week within Student Success services and is planned to be rolled-out to colleges the following month.

Slate Implementation Status

- Dr. Russell gave an update on Slate. The group discussed integration issues and the importance of ensuring all systems, including Slate, Navigate, Dash, etc. integrate effectively in order to streamline operations and reduce workload on staff

Pre-Health Advising Initiatives

- The group began discussion about enhancing pre-health advising across the UT system and working with each individual UT institution to improve such advising.

Closing Statements

- Raaj Kurapati ended the meeting at approximately 10:30AM