THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

PLANNING & BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 5, 2025
Time: 10:15 AM

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. Nick Verne	Interim Executive Dean - Medicine	Yes
Dr. Reginald Frye	Dean - Pharmacy	Yes
Keshia Giboni	Financial Coordinator - CoP, Staff Senate President	Yes
Dr. Tracy McClinton	Faculty Senate President	Yes
Dr. Ken Tilashalski	Dean - Dentistry	Yes
Dr. Charles Snyder	VC for Student Success	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, Mr. Raaj Kurapati called for a motion to accept, which was then made by Dr. Charlie Snyder and seconded by Dr. Ashley Harkrider.

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- **MINUTES**: Minutes from the April 21, 2025 meeting were reviewed and accepted with no changes requested.

Challenges in System Implementation Discussed

- Mr. Kurapati discussed some challenges being faced with DASH implementation and discussed, even though issues are slow to be resolved, we need to address internally and strategically given the state's significant investment in the product and process.

Discussion on base budget reductions

- Raaj discussed the need for a budget reduction, initially asking for 2.5% per academic and administrative areas.
- Raaj also began discussion about additional targeted budget reductions in addition to the initial 2.5%, and that those would be individual discussions with those specifically impacted.

Faculty Research Incentive Policy

- Dr. Snowden discussed the current progress and work on a new faculty research incentive policy. She will provide updates as the policy progresses.

Continued Discussion of Strategic Investment Requests for FY 26

- Continued the group process to discuss and prioritize strategic investment funding requests.

Strategic Enrollment Plan

- Dr. Russell discussed the strategic enrollment plan and that one will be developed over the summer.

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Institutional Accountability and Hiring Review

- Raaj discussed the need for a standardized and accountable method for a hiring process to promote accountability and transparency. Raaj also mentioned that the slowdown in hiring we had hoped for has not occurred under the new review process and emphasized the need for more scrutiny at the supervisory level and more contextualized justifications for filling positions.

Faculty Workload Policy Review

- The group discussed the need to consider faculty workload policies across different colleges due to the nature of each one being so unique and that unified approaches attempted in the past have not worked for that specific reason. The group agreed that general principles needed to be established, while also allowing for college-specific adaptations, as well as a process to hold faculty accountable for their research commitments.

Other Discussions

- Dr. Snowden voiced concern over the timing of the implementation of the Huron Research Suite.
- Dr. Snowden mentioned she would provide updates on the Faculty Research Incentive Policy when ready for the broader group.
- Finance team will monitor carry-forward balances as the system ultimately closes the books for the fiscal year and enables a calculation of our actual carry-forward balances.

Closing Statements

- Raaj Kurapati ended the meeting at approximately 11:15AM