

2024-2025 Wichita State University, Faculty Senate

Planning and Budget Committee (PBC) Report

Drafted by Mathew Muether on behalf of the PBC committee

April 28, 2025

Membership

- Mathew Muether (Chair, Faculty Senate President)
- Chris Stone (Faculty Senate President Elect)
- Jolynn Dowling (Faculty Senate Past President),
- Philip Mullins (CAS)
- Brian Hepburn (LAS Humanities)
- Ginger Williams (Library)
- Mark Arrasmith (LAS Natural Science)
- Mercy Umeri (LAS Social Science)
- Rhonda Williams (Health Professions)
- Adam Lynch (Engineering) Liu Yan (Business)
- Fine Arts Representative Unfilled

Charges:

1. Provide the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate with reports as tasks are completed from their annual written charge of specific topics and projects to the Faculty Senate Planning & Budget committee.
2. Identify and define the most appropriate avenues for faculty participations in the planning and budget process.
3. Attend meetings of the President's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) and advise the faculty representative (President of the Faculty Senate) on faculty concerns and priorities related to budget policies.
4. Review all matters relating to university planning and budgets, and expenditures including budget policies and assumptions, for example, faculty compensation and budget allocation/recission decisions.
5. Make recommendations to the Faculty Senate and to the Administration in matters related to university planning and budgets, as needed.
6. Develop faculty priorities related to Mill Levy expenditures and present those priorities annually to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

Meetings

The Planning and Budget Committee (PBC) met eight (8) times this academic year all in the spring semester. The meeting dates in 2025 were: Jan. 17, Feb. 6, Feb 27, March 27, April 10, April 25, May 6, May 19.

Committee Actions:

(see 3 below).

1. Per Charge 1:
 - a. Details of the work of Project Bridge, the BAC, discussions with planning leaders and stakeholder, and the proposal to alter committee leadership and charges were regularly shared with the Executive committee. (Detail on these items are included below.)
 - b. The Committee was charged to review faculty phased retirement policy. The committee found the policy aligned with state-level policy but recommended standard phased retirement durations be made more transparent to faculty in process documentation. This recommendation was handed back to Executive Committee.
2. Per Charge 2:
 - a. The committee met with a series of university leaders to discuss budget, facilities, compensation, and strategic planning. Worked to establish regular meetings with the PBC to meet this charge.
 - i. Meeting with President Rick Muma (March 27) – Discussed engagement with campus planning activities, budget priorities, and the use of Mill Levy Expenditures.
 - ii. Meeting with Senior Vice President for Administration David Miller, Chief Human Resources Officer Vikki Whisenhant, and Executive Director of Budget Lyndsay Pletcher to discuss university budget, market-based compensation and the work of Project-Bridge. Agreed to regular meeting with the PBC each semester during the AY.
 - iii. Meeting with Senior Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Enrollment Management Ashlie Jack. Discussed faculty involvement with HLC accreditation process and university strategic planning. Agreed to meet at least once per

- semester to discuss these topics and access appropriate faculty engagement.
- iv. Meeting with Executive Director of Facilities Planning Emily Patterson (May 6).
 - v. Meeting with Senior Executive Vice President and Provost Monica Lounsbery
- b. The committee also discussed overlap of the work done by PBC and PIAC. Cahir Muether met with the PIAC chair to discuss better aligned and report between these groups.
3. Per Charge 3:
- a. The PBC chair represent faculty on the BAC. The full committee was invited to attend. The BAC met in 2025 on Jan 21, Feb 18, March 28, April 28, May 19
4. Per Charge 4:
- a. PBC Chair Muether and Pres-elect Stone met monthly with Vicki Whisenhant, Executive Director of Human Resources, and members of her team. HR representatives gave presentations in Faculty Senate on MBC in the fall and spring.
 - b. Received updated on university level planning from leadership described above.
 - c. Chair Muether reviewed budgetary proposals and plans during regular PET, KBOR and 1:1 meetings with leadership.
5. Per Charge 5:
- a. FS President Muether met approximately monthly with President Muma and Provost Lefever/Lounsbery and participated in other administrative meetings that potentially involve PBC business: including KBOR debriefs, Presidents Executive Team and Legislative updates. These meetings provide occasion to make recommendations to the WSU administration regarding planning and budget matters.
 - b. Chair Muether served as the faculty representative on Project Bridge, the committee established to recommend actions to advance the presidential priority to move forward on market-based compensation plans.
6. Per Charge 6:
- a. The committee discussed the Mill Levy budget and its used for the primary faculty priority of increase compensation to meet MBC goals with President Muma.
 - b. The committee communicated with the Sedgwick County board, and Executive Director of the WSU Board of Trustees to discuss Mill Levy budget process.

- c. The committee reviewed the Boards of Trustees 10-year Mill level plan and found it aligned well with the primary use of the fund to support University debt service. Additional funding directed towards student support and community engagement seems well placed
7. The committee submitted a proposal to Faculty senate recommending changing the chair of BPC to the senate past president, included explicit connection with planning activities beyond the budget process and removal of the current charge 6 which the committee find counter to the spirit of its other charges and the principles of shared governance.

Recommendations for AY 2025-26

1. The committee should meet in both Fall and spring semester and engage with the leaders met with above to fulfil charges and impact university planning.
2. The committee should work with the Senate and general faculty to develop general faculty budget and planning priorities.