

## CLAS Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 18, 2022, 3:00 - 4:10 p.m.

Present: John Palmer (Chair), Galia Hatav, Thomas Knight, Fahad Qazi, Daniel Talham, Matthieu Felt (Secretary), Chris McCarty (Dean's Office)

1. Call to order and approval of minutes of the previous meeting.

3 pm meeting called to order  
Minutes approved unanimously as posted.

2. Discussion of draft of the committee's final report and supporting documents (including working group reports and "specimen" spreadsheets suggesting possible approaches to reaching final target for OPS budget)

Summary of points raised:

- There is a possibility that the multiplier approach might reproduce existing disparities or inequities because of the universal nature in which it is applied.
  - Committee notes that the current report advocates for usage of totals produced by working group, i.e. the multiplier is applied to the reappraised OPS budget
- Proposal to strengthen statement in the final paragraph about the risks to quality of education, employee morale, the quality of graduate packages, and future graduate student recruiting
  - All present agree that the proposed cuts are detrimental to educational quality
  - The non-actionable nature of this statement returns discussion to the impending and inevitable nature of budget reductions to OPS
- Explanation from Chair of how Stage 1 and Stage 2 recommendations were arrived at
- Committee expresses hope that "decision tree" of responses will be of use to CLAS in preparing actual determination of cuts, and explanation of rationale for decision tree approach
- Discussion of different metrics for cuts: across the board, SCH/1000, and others, revisited later
- Discussion of resolve of committee to make the degree of recommendation needed to achieve OPS budget targets, recap of Stage 1 vs Stage 2.
  - Committee emphasizes that Stage 1 constitutes new base OPS allocation and is significantly less than 2021-2022 requests, despite falling short of ultimate target
- Discussion of committee responsibilities and College responsibilities
- Broad discussion of current decision tree branches and what additional metrics might be incorporated into Stage 2 evaluations
  - Note that different processes result in different percentage reductions that may be less than an across-the-board cut; explained in detail on page four of final report
  - Observation made that Stage 2 cuts demand a subjective evaluation of the value and measure of OPS spending, making it significantly more fraught than Stage 1
    - Discussion of who (Committee, administration) should make this subjective evaluation and respective roles

- Concrete identification of other potential metrics for evaluating OPS spending in parallel with SCH/\$1000, including graduate funding, graduate degrees, PhDs per \$1000, PhDs per FTE, and PhDs per graduate faculty
- Discussion of performing additional analysis for relevant departments and what Committee could further do in terms of making recommendations
  - Identification of data needed to perform additional analysis
  - Question of whether it is realistic to get this data before end of AY
- Discussion of associated issues related to analysis of graduate programs
  - Need to consider impact of cuts on graduate faculty
  - Need to consider whether, for some departments, partial cuts to graduate funding will make entire graduate programs inoperable
  - Need to consider differences such as average time to degree when assessing departments
- General questions for the committee and administration to consider:
  - What is the role of graduate students at UF?
  - How do we get data and figures on graduate students?
  - How do we compare departments that have different histories and conventions in dealing with graduate students?
- Statement of need to deliver a recommendation by the end of this AY considering the timeline for the administration making an ultimate decision and reporting the status of future OPS funding to department chairs
- Administration proposed making data on number of PhDs by department available to Committee members
- Identification of goals for Committee. In remaining three meetings:
  - Find a way to incorporate graduate programs into methodology for adjusting recommendations upwards or downwards
  - Consider refinements/caveats to this methodology
  - Suggest factors most useful for getting to target number of OPS budget
  - Conclude recommendation (not going to be finished by CLAS assembly)
- Number of PhDs to be sent by administration to Committee
- Concluding statement by Chair that Committee will take the remaining month to consider how to best shape college decision-making about OPS

3. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM