# ECOS Meeting Minutes, August 30, 2018 3:30 p.m. UH 221

Members present: A. Delaney, N. Hinman, A. Johnstone, M. Pershouse, T. Manuel, M. Semanoff

Members absent: G. Quintero

## Communication

* Chair Semanoff provided several updates. There are two Keck Foundation proposals. One is moving forward for Neuroscience. The other from Blackstone that is focused on co-curricular courses needs more quantitative information. They are considering working on a pilot and may need some advice.
* Chair Semanoff was copied on an email from Graduate Council Chair, Len Broberg to Provost Harbor asking for clarification of teaching assistants in the calculations. The Provost has not yet responded.
* ASCRC Chair Marc Hendrix congratulated Chair Semanoff on his thoughtful remarks at the State of the University Address. He will do his best to move the curriculum review along as quickly as possible. The administration will share the list of items as soon as it is available. A lot of items will be related to reorganization. He sees ASCRC’s primary function as curriculum review and making sure the catalog is as user friendly as possible. Professor Manuel reminded him that a big part of the charge is to ensure academic quality.
* The Cabinet meeting mostly focused on analyzing what worked or didn’t related to welcome week and orientation. The Food Zoo needs to be open during orientation. In the future students will be encouraged to complete business items before they get to campus.   
    
  There has been a lot of confusion on campus resulting from uneven distribution of information. The second correspondence from the Provost was intended to address this.   
    
  New numbers different than last spring. Deans and Chairs are checking target staffing levels. Executive Committee will consider all the ramifications (accreditation, research, and etc.) to make the decisions. Need the details of how data created.
* Vice President for Administration and Finance Rosi Keller addressed questions about the budget. Admin and Finance worked on 4 years of budget projections based on former VP Tom Crady’s numbers. Resources need to be aligned with expenditures. She is working closely with the Provost. The enrollment numbers will impact the budget. State funding has been pretty stable. MSU continues to grow. We have fixed costs regardless of enrollment. There is a balanced budget for FY 2019 based on predicted enrollment. We planned for a reduction. Budget preparation for the Legislature started 8 months ago. It requires position by position justification and explanation for changes from last session. Budget preparation for the Board of Regents occurs for the full year. It requires a listing of all resources expenses including CBA requirements (merits, pay plan increases, etc.). We were able to reduce utilities. Adjustments will be determined when we know the tuition revenue. The voluntary retirements and severance plans generated 4 million. The four year plan requires increased enrollment and retention. She will build out the four-year plans again when we have realistic numbers.   
    
  Although some programs have academic expenses on designated funds, this is not allowed and not allowed and not sustainable. Some one-time foundation funds have helped with marketing.   
    
  We need a budget model- align allocation where growth is. However, implementing a new model when resources are contracting is not a good time.   
    
  We have to determine the appropriate target for enrollment. She doesn’t think we want to have over 15,000. When asked what went wrong, she responded hope is not a strategy.

## Business items:

* Faculty Senate Process for staffing reductions / reorganizations   
    
  The new numbers are quite different than last for some units. Deans and Chairs are checking target staffing levels. The Executive Committee will consider all the ramifications (accreditation, research, and etc.) to make the decisions. Chair Semanoff has asked for the details of how the data was created. The UFA has been working with Provost Harbor to see if the chairs deadline can be extended.

In order for the Senate to conduct a meaningful review it needs to have enough information to determine whether the ratio is adequate. The strategy is for units to be funded at minimum levels and then build back up when enrollment stabilizes. The Senate will want to understand how the decisions support the strategic goals and that the process has been fair. Some of the Presumptions regarding the target ratios are of concern. Some indication from chairs if process has been fare.

The Senate’s focus on curriculum could be at odds with the Unions focus on protecting seniority if retrenchment occurs.

* The Senate could consider revision to [101.40 Items that Require Senate Approval](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/procedures/ECOS_100/101.40_SenateApprovalItems.docx) - reorganization that involves moving programs from one college to another at a latter date.
* The following Committee nominations were confirmed.
  + Search Committee for Executive Director of Online Education
    - Sara Rinfret , Public Administration
    - Tony Ward, Public Health
  + Unit Standards Committee
    - Andrew Larson, Forest Management
  + Diversity Advisory Committee (was not aware of vacancies in May)
    - [Thomas, Linda](http://winapps.umt.edu/winapps/facultysenate/committeepreferenceresults/?FacultyID=e0434f64-a5df-4fc0-a042-a9a3f2a4c5e8&CommitteeID=35c6b3a0-cfc1-498e-a5fa-bdf3f0439f17), Applied Arts & Sciences
    - [Wu, Ke](http://winapps.umt.edu/winapps/facultysenate/committeepreferenceresults/?FacultyID=e630b26d-119b-477a-9f2d-6271d8a79bcd&CommitteeID=35c6b3a0-cfc1-498e-a5fa-bdf3f0439f17), Mathematical Sciences
  + University Conduct Board
    - Sara Polanchek, Counselor Education (nominated by Chair)
* Chair Semanoff will distribute a draft Program of the Senate before the next meeting
* No follow up was needed on the revision to the Student Conduct Code send to ECOS.
* ECOS agreed that the Evaluation of the Administration should take place in the spring.