

Senate Budget Review Committee

Annual Reports

2001-2002

During the year 2001-2002, the Senate Budget Review Committee addressed and made recommendations on several proposed new degree programs:

1. A new B.S. degree in Wellness, Health Promotion, and Injury Prevention, to be offered within the School of Health Sciences;
2. A new B.S. degree in Financial Information Systems, to be offered within the Department of Accounting and Finance in the School of Business Administration; and
3. A new Ph.D. Program in Mechanical Engineering, to be offered within the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Our reviews were concentrated on the budget information provided in the proposal, considering both the anticipated incremental revenues and the incremental expenditures. While not our primary charge, we also considered the academic merit of the proposed program, and the ability of the unit to deliver a viable program.

In all cases, we felt the new programs had merit and that the requested budgeted expenditures would permit the unit to provide a quality program.

While analysis of expenditures tended to be rather straight-forward, analysis of incremental revenues was more difficult. Estimating the exact number of students enrolling in a new program is difficult. Further, distinguishing between incremental new enrollments at Oakland University due to the new program, and already-enrolled Oakland students who would switch to the new program, is problematic.

Thus, for some new programs we were unsure of the extent to which it would require redirection of existing university resources. For others, it was obvious that the new program (i.e., Ph.D. Program in Mechanical Engineering) would require significant new resources, which could only be provided by incremental university resources or by re-directing resources from existing programs. Either way, it is likely that existing programs would suffer (re-direction of resources, or reduced incremental resources).

Perhaps our greatest frustration is the fact that we were not given information allowing us to address, much less make recommendations about, allocation or re-allocation of existing or incremental university resources. We could not address the tradeoffs inherent in new program proposals relative to existing programs. For future committees, we would request that such tradeoff information be made available.

SENATE BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE - 2001-2002

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