

Senate Budget Review Committee Summary of the 1997-98 Annual Report

Membership: E. Farragher (Chair), K. Kleckner, D. McCrimmon, D. Moore, S. Moran, P. Nicosia, C. Rush, A. Sahu, E. Schochetman)

Procedures

The 1997-98 SBRC continued its policy of presenting analyses of the budgetary impacts of adopting program proposals and to limit recommendations to financial matters only.

Activities

1. SEHS Ph.D. Proposal

The SBRC recommended that the Senate defer consideration of this proposal. The SBRC questioned the validity of the forecasted enrollment because the estimates were based on anecdotal, rather than empirical, market analyses. Also, it felt that that the large number of post-master credits required by the programs would limit enrollment. Revising the curriculum from 4 to 3 credit hours would eliminate this concern, but would cause forecasted revenues to drop significantly. And, the budget does not allow for student attrition. In addition, the SBRC was concerned about a lack of proven scholars in each of the three areas. Accordingly, the SBRC thought that the forecasted salaries were understated because the budgets assumed that new faculty hires are junior faculty and did not incorporate the Graduate Council recommendation that new hires be senior faculty with excellent research records. Also, the budgets did not provide for additional faculty hires/compensation necessitated by an increased workload.

2. Development of joint SBRC/SPRC *Guidelines and Procedures for Preparing New Program Proposal Reports*

Recommendations

1. The Graduate Council should adopt the *SPRC Guidelines and Procedures for Preparing New Program Proposal Reports* developed by the SBRC/SPRC.

2. That an annual Charter School budget report be presented to the Senate. The report would provide forecasted and actual enrollments for each chartered school for the current academic year and forecasted enrollments for each chartered school for each of the next two academic years. Also, it would provide actual revenues and expenses for the OU Charter School program for the current academic year and forecasted revenues and expenses for each of the next two academic years.

3. That all new program proposal reports include a detailed, market-based, empirical analysis of enrollment forecasts. The current practice of anecdotal-based forecasts is a very poor method for forecasting enrollments.