

URC Meeting
Meeting Minutes
January 31st 11 AM – 12 PM

Charge for URC (Dr. Abdelrahman)

- Mohamed - Optimizing class size subcommittee. I would like to suggest a dean also be added to the committee to add more perspective.
- Craig – Was Joni setting up a kick off meeting?
 - Mohamed – reached out to Debra and she is okay to be added. Will still be a heavy faculty focus, a faculty committee. Just wanted us to consider all things we have discussed as deans and chairs, and executive committee from the faculty senate. Want a heavy faculty focus. 12/13 people, would you add any from the financial side?
 - Craig – probably not
- Mohamed – Charge FROM URC. What does URC want to charge the subcommittee with?
Craig and I can formally create charge.
 - Craig – let’s hear your thoughts
 - Mohamed – I would like to hear committee’s thoughts. Maybe be division specific
 - Craig – I have sent president info from VP areas, what they have not used from their budget the last five years. Agree we can contribute to how we reduce the use of reserves.
 - Mohamed – maybe not a charge, but a recommendation from URC that we can take to Dr. Schott. The budget needs to be adjusted, there was always over expenditures. I would rather see a budget that covers our needs after

optimization and a plan on how we grow our budget as our enrollment continues to grow.

- Craig – if we can tackle that first part, optimizing class size, we'll have a good start for creating a plan for when we expand.
- Durant – for summer teaching, it would be good to get an idea from the programs to see what they are spending on faculty salaries vs what we're enrolling and what we're offering. Students rely on summer classes to move toward graduation. Some faculty are required to teach certain courses that can only be offered in the summer. Think these will all be common themes in programs and maybe some other areas.
- Mohamed – these are the type of discussions I would like to have in the faculty committee. We can't just put summer on the chopping block. What kind of fiscal criteria do we have? What do the students want and need vs what we want to offer, these are all things we want the committee to consider. What else would you like to committee to look at?
- Megan – reflecting on what Durant was saying earlier. The faculty on this committee are not chairs or program coordinate so we have little/nothing to do with scheduling summer classes.
 - Mohamed – I understand what you're saying, hence adding a dean to committee. Don't want it to be dominated by administrators, but open to having someone from the committee to attend to understand the nuances that faculty might be facing. Has to be balanced. Create a criteria for summer programming, general rules that are not specific to programs (biology, chemistry)

- Rohan – Why we want to have a majority of faculty on that committee, wouldn't be a bad idea to insert the dept. chairs because they are involved with the scheduling. Suggest adequate chair support for the committee.
- Mohamed – if it's acceptable to URC and Craig, maybe we could do it this way.
 - Craig – flexible if we can make the best business decisions
- Mohamed – want to be heavy faculty focus, but we need to include those involved with scheduling
 - Craig – I think it's important for those on the committee to understand the learning outcomes from the courses we are evaluating. What can we do maximize revenue and minimize expenses and at the same time not negatively impact our students.
 - Brandy – have to look at growth pipeline. Places invested in enrollment growth. Just want to make sure it's considered in this conversation as well.
 - Mohamed – and this committee should be able to reach out to the subject experts.
 - Craig – Brandy, do we have any good information on the students that are coming in for what they have credit for vs what they need?
 - Brandy – I think the past three years are pretty reflective of what that trend looks like, so we can definitely look at that. Not so much what they've taken in the past, but what they take when they get here.
 - Leonard – I think the work of the subcommittee is related to what we do here in the URC. The big part of the issue from the faculty perspective doesn't have any idea what's going on with the budget. If there is more

transparency with the numbers in the budget, it would be easier to get these issues solved by faculty. Important that we in this group look at everything in the budget, that we haven't been doing in recent years.

- Mohamed – We (Mohamed & Craig) have to give information on how budget is allocated to different divisions.
- Craig – Complexity for us is we share in town halls, presentations, give out a lot of information. Every time we share, we are told we don't share anything. I need faculty's help to help us figure out a better way to share that information.
 - Sean – I have found the work you do is clear, don't feel you're hiding anything. There is something that was proposed in the last meeting that was echoed in this meeting that I am slight concerned about. The idea that our Tuition and fees scheduled, there's this tiny pittance amount that's designated to tuition. Idea that that pittance should be use to cover all the faculty salaries. Google Search after last meeting, "do most universities pay the entire of faculty salaries just on the tuition?" The answer is no. Suggest that it is really important, that we avoid the false notion we should cover all faculty salaries from the pittance noted on the tuition and fees schedule.
 - Craig – We have tried to look at it as if we took the statutory amount and the designated tuition amount, less what we have to take from set asides, would that then be enough to cover the faculty salaries needed? I don't have an answer for that. We took the in my opinion we need to look at what the needs of the intuition

are, and are we being as efficient as possible with the use of our resources and then what we feel is the best allocation of those resources to continue long term sustainably of our institution. I have not come up with that answer yet. Are we leaving money on the table?

- Leonard – not suggesting things are not transparent, but it feels like decisions are being presented to us after they've already been made. We should be looking at items in the budget and making decisions about those allocations. To give us the numbers after the fact, while better than nothing.
- Megan – I think adding more and more to the subcommittee, I think we're losing focus at what our charge is as URC.
- Durant – what would be helpful for the faculty is a one or two page information sheet for faculty disbursed at faculty breakfast or meeting, high level explanations. Across the board, here is where we're spending, here is what we're bring in, and here are the gaps. Etc., something tangible that comes out of this committee that can be handed to faculty at large, so they can see that the URC is taking their input and translating that into decisions.
- Mohamed – let's keep summer scheduling out of subcommittee, could be overwhelming. Could executive team create format for the committee?

Allocations towards growing academic programs (Dr. Abdelrahman)

- Mohamed – do we want to have something from URC, CFO, President, and controller?

- Craig – I think it would be good to have a memo drafted from URC addressed to president with ideas to conserve.
- Mohamed – volunteers to draft memo to president?
 - Craig & Leonard will work together.
- Durant – how soon do we want to meet on scheduling piece?
 - Mohamed – as soon as possible, I will get Joni on it.

FY24 Commitments

- Craig – would like to provide recommendations for merits next year.

Other discussion

- Next meeting – show what we project for tuition and fees. Compared to current year