Budget Council Meeting Notes  
February 24, 2011

Members in attendance:  John Bland, Charles Bodkin, Kathy Buckingham, Ramah Carle, Chris Ervin, Frank Fleming, Elizabeth Hardin, Trey O’Quinn, Jay Raja, Carrie Smith, Darin Spease, Gary Stinnett, Charisse Turner, and Cleo Widmaier

- The Governor’s version of the State’s FY2012 budget has been issued, putting us in the budget dance while awaiting the Legislature’s budget proposal. We have heard public communication stating the impact of the Governor’s budget will be a 6% to 9-1/2% reduction and include enrollment-growth funding at approximately 50% of the Board of Governors’ request system wide and funding for building reserves.
- The Budget Office received information indicating we would receive partial enrollment-growth funding, suggesting we would get $4.3 million in each of two years. We asked for $7.3 million in the first year and $10.9 million in the second year. The Governor keeps the same amount for both years in her proposal.
- Although there is not yet a legislative budget, we expect their cut will be higher than 9-1/2%, not lower. Beth feels it will be closer to 15% than 10%.
- We are receiving requests for information from legislators and trying to work with everyone. Betty Doster warns that we may get additional, perhaps even more unusual, information requests with shorter turn-around times due to the large number of new legislators.
- Our process of keeping Betty in the loop is working well. She and Beth talk frequently, and Beth will probably refer her to other Budget Council members individually for answers to questions within their areas of expertise.
- Essentially, legislators are attempting to compare UNC Charlotte with other older, larger schools such as NC State. However, we are very different -- much younger with different type funding than larger schools. We will look at NC State to see what they are doing; however, we must learn to speak to the issue of our difference and focus on getting that message across.
- UNC President Ross has been meeting with members of the Legislature to address the universities’ concerns, which is a good thing. Some communications went out from the Legislature yesterday regarding cutting education more in their budget than was done in the Governor’s budget. We do not know if the proposed cuts will apply more heavily to K-12,
community colleges, or universities. Hopefully, those communications went out prior to meeting with President Ross.

- Beth Hardin and Charles Bodkin recently recorded six additional videos regarding the budget situation. The three videos recorded earlier are posted to the VCBA Web site for viewing by the entire campus. The subsequent ones are being reviewed by Betty Doster for content and should be posted to the Web site soon.

- Gary Stinnett stated that Human Resources has received inquiries about the early-retirement incentive mentioned in the Budget Council meeting notes of January 18, 2011. Beth stated that it is way too soon to know anything about that proposal.

- The University has experienced some problems with cash management and did not have the ability to write checks for three days. It appears to have been only a technical problem and not a sign of anything more serious. The same thing has occurred four or five times since April 2009.

- We have received no news about a reversion, and Beth feels it is unlikely to be used now. If cash is restricted, it will likely be done through a freeze.

- Gary Stinnett reported that 58 SPA positions have been approved; and as of today, 18 of them have been filled and the others are in process. Beth says that if you have open, approved positions, fill them as soon as possible. If you have money in this year’s budget, spend it now.

- We must be on our game for fund swaps previously discussed in early January. Currently, we have three demands for swap funds. This is how it works: There are some legitimate purposes for using general funds that relate to auxiliaries. For example, in Business Affairs, mail services and the shuttle service are funded with auxiliary funds, but these are some legitimate expenses that could be paid with general funds. By executing a swap, the auxiliary funds could be saved for other purposes. Our challenge is identifying other swap-fund sources to supplement those from Business Affairs. Generally, they may also be found in Student Services auxiliaries and perhaps even in Academic Affairs. Frank Fleming and Jay Raja agreed to look into possibilities within their areas.