Planning and Budget Council: Budget Committee
Meeting Summary March 1, 2011
1:00 PM – 1:50 PM
AB 5 309

Present: Shepard, Vazquez, Lindsey, Rogers, Felton
Absent: Bright, Niemczyk, Miller,
Guests: IRC Members: Mario Bernardo, Patricia O’Connor-Benson, Charlie Weaver

Overview of Current Budget

Joe began the meeting highlighting the recent budget forecast from the March 2011, Florida Revenue Estimating Conference. The current term is 110 million above the current term estimate.

For the next academic year, potential state wide budget reduction of 3 billion dollars which equates to 4.4% cut to FGCU roughly 3.5 million; in addition the federal stimulus money will expire resulting in an overall 13% budget reduction. However, Joe noted that the Budget committee had forecasted a 7% budget reduction per year over the next 4 years, as part of the strategic plan, and noted that with a possible tuition increase and predicted continued growth of FGCU that this will ultimately assist the university during this economic period.

However, Shepard noted everyone still needs to be cautious and monitor the legislative session because of the potential increases to expenses associated with human personnel and other potential budget reductions.

Meeting with IRC

Members from the Information Resources Committee were present and discussion ensured about FGCU’s technology fee. Discussion provided an opportunity to clear any confusion about the technology fee and how the technology fee has been able to surplant money into technology purchases instead of relying on E & G funding; however, there has been essentially a net gain of zero in funding for technology. It was concluded that purchasing and use of the technology fee funding would address priorities set forth by the IRC for this academic year.

The selected IRC members present addressed concerns of aging technology and the potential problems with the roll out of Windows 7 and Office 2010.

Discussion continued about the need to identify priorities for this year to purchase, and to begin to consider ongoing priorities for purchases

Discussion also continued about the benefits and negatives of centralizing budgeting versus decentralizing budgeting.
Procedural Guidelines:

The procedural guidelines requested by the PBC were unanimously approved and a copy will be forwarded to the PBC for approval.

Next Steps:

Shepard concluded the meeting with another chance for questions.

Plans for next meeting:
   1. 2011 Legislative Session
   2. Discussion of the technology purchase analysis
   3. Ongoing analysis of Current University Budget.

The meeting ended at 1:50 PM.