The President’s February 20th message on the budget suggests the seriousness of the budget issues confronting our university, but in our view it does not provide the claimed transparency about the scope of the issues or the administration's attempts to address them.

**President Hopkins’ numbers just don’t add up.**

The President starts by saying the remediation plan called for $19.7 million in “base savings” in FY2017 and $8 million in FY2018. But in the FY17 budget published last spring, Table 3.3 shows “Targeted Spending Cuts” of $19.7 million, whereas Table 3.4 shows “Remediation Items” of $18.7 million for FY17 (and $9 million for FY18). Now the President tells us that instead of having to cut $8 or $9 million in FY18, we must cut $25 million. His explanation: a $10 million loss in anticipated revenue and a $2.5 million loss in investment income (total $12.5 million), plus a vague reference to restoring unrestricted reserves.

So, what’s the story for cuts in FY18? First, we don’t know which number to start with for the cuts budgeted last spring. Was it $8 million or $9 million? Regardless, if we add the President’s $12.5 million to either of those numbers, we get only $20.5 or $21.5 million, not $25 million, a discrepancy of at least $3.5 million.

If this multimillion dollar discrepancy was not worth an explanation, then why was the $250,000 in salaries saved by laying off six NTE faculty in CoLA even remotely essential?

Likewise, the “savings” achieved by those faculty layoffs must be measured against $4.4 million the administration allocated to cover losses incurred by WSARC in FY16, and the $8.6 million in FY16 subsidy plus $1.4 million more in over-budget spending for intercollegiate athletics, ad infinitum.

Since last March, we have been arguing that this budget crisis is largely self-created, the result of incompetent budgetary oversight combined with over-spending on multiple initiatives, which, with startling uniformity, have neither produced any net revenue nor advanced the university’s primary mission.

Yet, while that spending continues, the administration keeps pointing to unreached enrollment targets as if they were the main issue. In our view, it is preposterous to blame enrollment changes for budget deficits of the size that have been allowed to accumulate.

Moreover, it is time to question the basis for the enrollment targets that we keep falling short of meeting. Are they based on actual targeted initiatives to increase enrollment? Or are they, in essence, wishful thinking—meaning that our somehow managing to meet the targets will make the budget balance?

Over this past year, we have distributed much material on the budget issues, as well as other issues. There materials are available on the following:

- our chapter website: [http://www.wright.edu/administration/aaup/aaup.html](http://www.wright.edu/administration/aaup/aaup.html)
- our chapter blog: [https://aaupwsublog.wordpress.com](https://aaupwsublog.wordpress.com)
- our chapter Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/American-Association-of-University-Professors-Wright-State-University-636430523091526/timeline/](https://www.facebook.com/American-Association-of-University-Professors-Wright-State-University-636430523091526/timeline/)
- our chapter Twitter account: [https://twitter.com/aaupwsu](https://twitter.com/aaupwsu)

Thank you for your support of our chapter. **Please attend the chapter meeting on March 8 at 1:30pm** (join first if you are not already an RCM) and take advantage of opportunities to become more actively involved.

*Marty*

Marty Kich
President, AAUP-WSU

> NTE? TET? BUFM? CBA? RCM? What are all these acronyms? See [this guide](#).

The list of AAUP-WSU Executive Committee members is available on our [officers page](#).