

Budget Priorities for Wright State University
Faculty Budget Priorities Committee
Summer 2020

Purpose

The Faculty Budget Priority Committee (FBPC) is charged with examining the fiscal affairs of the university and recommending fiscal priorities to the Faculty Senate and university administration. The FBPC offers the following lenses through which to view current and upcoming proposals, and to help set the financial priorities for the University. The categories include (1) Ensuring Equitable Access to a Quality Education for All Students, (2) Graduate Education and the Scholarly Profile of the University, and (3) Communication and Organization of Financial Information.

Ensure Equitable Access to a Quality Education for All Students

Wright State University provides access to Raider Country students and others who seek a high-quality education at an affordable price. WSU students, staff, and faculty reflect the diversity of Raider Country, as reflected in race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, religious beliefs, military status, and prior academic experiences. WSU values the purposeful investment in the structural development, cultivation, and maintenance, of an inclusive and equitable university system.

WSU's budget priorities should demonstrate a deliberate and continuous implementation of policies, practices, and procedures that enable the success of WSU students, staff, and faculty from marginalized communities. Students, staff and faculty from marginalized populations continue to face barriers created and supported by structural and systemic racism. Budget priorities should demonstrate an investment in supporting members of the WSU community who face these barriers in their educational and professional development. This investment is reflected in organizational designs, programs, policies, personnel, etc. that support, with transparency and accountability, equitable access to a quality education for all students.

WSU budget priorities should include quantitative and qualitative assessments from diverse sets of faculty, students, staff and others who support the success of our students. Priorities focused on equitable access to a quality education can only be ensured when a diversity of students, staff, and faculty are engaged in meaningful ways to establish budget priorities based on meaningful assessments of diversity in the context of the demographics of each unit and program. We recommend that as budget priorities are implemented, processes need to be developed and monitored to ensure that students have appropriate access to faculty, support for their success, advisors and mentors, and resources that contribute to their health and well-being.

Graduate Education and the Scholarly Profile of the University

Wright State University values the contributions that faculty make to their respective professions and society at large. Faculty scholarly endeavors provide opportunities to maintain content expertise, to provide the most up to date information to students, and to guide the next generation of change-makers in their fields. Faculty scholarly projects enhance graduate program quality by providing unique opportunities for graduate students in various fields to gain practical experiences to complement and expand upon theoretical ideas.

Budget priorities must continue to support graduate education at WSU. This support is directly linked to the research and scholarly profile of the university. The budget priorities must reflect and enhance the diversity of both scholars and scholarly work at Wright State. Budget priorities should provide mechanisms to specifically support research and scholarly work of students and faculty of underrepresented groups, and should provide funding for graduate students consistently throughout their program.

Communication and Organization of Financial Information

As a public institution, WSU is committed to accountability in its financial activities. WSU fully discloses financial information to a wide range of stakeholders including our Board of Trustees, publicly elected officials, and the general public. The WSU Finance Budget Priorities Committee (FBPC) is responsible for “examin[ing] the fiscal affairs of the university and recommending fiscal priorities to the Faculty Senate and university administration”. In order to effectively meet its charge, it is imperative that university provide the FBPC with timely and detailed financial data on a regular basis. Regular and timely financial information affords the FBPC the opportunity to review the data and provide the Faculty Senate and university administration with meaningful recommendations and promotes trust and collaboration between the Board of Trustees, upper administration, faculty, and staff. The transparency and accountability established through this process will foster community support and affirmation of difficult decisions.

This committee will fulfill its role only through unfettered access to comprehensive data and comprehensible financial metrics, and managerial summaries. Examples of required reporting include:

- Goals and targets for any for new and current budget priorities, initiatives, or savings
- Progress toward budgetary goals and targets over time, as a way to track progress
- Establishment of well-publicized, accessible, and regularly updated details of budget projections, initiatives and realizations
- Longitudinal accounting for each unit of all significant sources of income and expenditures along with budget influences including personnel, benefits, enrollment, subsidies, maintenance, investments, etc.
- Specific investments to address diversity inequities in each unit or program
- Longitudinal quantitative assessments of diversity demonstrating the impact of investments in the context of the demographics of each unit or program.