

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
June 24, 2019

Regents Present: John McGivern (committee chair), Terry Beck (committee member), Paul Hoferer (committee member), Mayor De La Isla, Bill Sneed, Jennifer Sourk

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by John McGivern, chair.

Minutes from the April 3, 2019 meeting were approved as distributed.

Vice President Jim Martin opened the discussion of the FY 2020 General Fund Budget, noting that everything in the agenda supports a 2.7% increase in tuition.

Vice President JuliAnn Mazachek and Dr. Richard Liedtke reviewed national, regional, and local demographics in higher education. The document, Enrollment – Demographics, Trends, and the Future was distributed. Enrollment peaked nationally in 2010 and has declined since then. In the last five years enrollment has declined by one million students. The sharpest expected student increase is in low-income and first-generation students. MBA programs have also declined across the nation. There is growth in the number of students looking at elite institutions which does not help Washburn or any of the Kansas schools. Washburn Tech has experienced consistent growth and the CEP program continues to grow.

Programs have been put in place to help insure student success but more help is necessary. A possible grad program in IT will be explored.

International student enrollment will have a tremendous drop off in 2019 due to political relations with other countries and the drop in visa approvals. A breakdown in the number of graduate and undergraduate international students will be provided.

President Farley explained that students are required to have 120 credit hours to graduate in Kansas. With the CEP program it is possible for students to have a full year of college credits before arriving on campus. The President tells students they must take 15 hours per semester to graduate in four years. It is to their advantage to go to summer school and graduate early rather than working during the summers.

Since an out-of-state student can apply for in-state status after six months it was questioned why we continue to charge out-of-state tuition. President Farley said any change would need to be phased in. He added that out-of-state tuition is not charged for any graduate programs or law school.

Transfer agreements with the community colleges were discussed. The largest number of transfers are from the Regent schools rather than the community colleges. Due to the low

unemployment rate many high school graduate are going directly to work rather than going to college.

It was asked if local employers had been surveyed to determine how we can aid them in getting employees with the necessary degree needed for business. President Farley said aggressive outreach, particularly by Washburn Tech, had been done with area banks. He found the responses interesting. They wanted an employee who can think, show up, pass the drug test, and can be trained for sales and customer service. Mayor De La Isla said it is important to retain the best and brightest students. She offered her assistance to help facilitate contacts with businesses.

Regents De La Isla and Sneed departed at 4:00 p.m.

When asked about raising money for faculty salaries, Marshall Meek said most gifts are restricted by the wishes of the donor. VP Mazachek added that a \$40 million endowment would be necessary to sustain a \$2 million annual increase.

Regent Sourk departed at 4:18 p.m. but prior to leaving she indicated support of the 2.7% tuition increase.

VP Martin reviewed the ten-year tuition and fee comparison as well as the salary comparison. He said we are losing ground in maintaining faculty salaries. In comparison with peer institutions we are currently at 13.4% behind. This is the furthest behind we have been in the past 10 years.

When asked what effect a tuition increase will have on recruitment Dr. Liedtke said it would have little effect especially with the scholarship packages we provide.

It was suggested the University needed to raise fees since we are the only institution without significant fees. President Farley said an analysis comparing tuition and fees could be brought to the Board to review.

No recommendation on the proposed FY 2019 general fund budget will be made to the full Board of Regents.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.