

Meeting report for the Jan 14, 2025 meeting of the Fac Sen Budget and Resources Committee

The meeting began at 4:05 pm with a quorum of committee members present plus guests Clayton Abbey (govt relations) and Kim Rumford (Chief budget officer) in attendance.

Topics address included:

1. Minutes from 11/12/24 and 12/10/24 meetings were approved
2. Clayton Abbey discussed legislative priorities for the coming legislative session with the committee.
 - a. He noted \$9M in support for faculty and grad students with ~\$5.5M of that requested for faculty salary support to bring faculty up to the ~40th percentile of peer RI institutions plus ~\$3.5M for graduate student support (not necessarily salary but things like support for tuition remission, etc.).
3. Funding of the recently negotiated grad student tuition remission.
 - a. Kim Rumford indicated that funding for this is coming from unspent scholarship funds- saving realized when undergrad scholarships were reorganized last year.
4. Next topics to take up were also discussed. Suggestions included:
 - a. Athletics deficit?
 - b. Improving business operations
 - i. Communication- keeping faculty in the loop with purchasing, hiring, travel reimbursements, etc.
 - ii. Simplified Index tracking- an accessible system where faculty can track accounts, maybe as simple as online banking systems?
 - iii. Requesting Admin continue with the study examining growth of admin vs faculty positions started by int. President Torres.

The meeting adjourned at 5p with a promise from S. Hanson to provide refreshments for those who attend the next meeting in person.