

Budget & Finance
February Meetings for March SEC

The Budget & Finance Committee met twice this month.

The first meeting was a joint meeting with the Chair of the Faculty Welfare & Responsibility Committee as their request to discuss compensation issues on February 23rd, 2022. The results of this meeting are as follows:

Chair Atkinson agreed to contact the President, SGA and seek support from the student government in the form of a resolution.

March SEC: Bring up the pending resolution and the combined support of B&F, FW, AAUP, and ask SGA if they'd like to frame a similar resolution but couched in terms of wanting their instructor's teaching conditions to be better so their learning (and retention) conditions are better.

March SENATE: Committee reports from all three units and SGA can signal the pending resolution and the fact that we have held joint meetings to discuss.

A member of the B & F Committee will update financial information to help support the need for RAISES. Also, it was decided that the resolution should include transparency about a) the total amount set aside for raises and b) how it's actually distributed.

The resolution should also include language about rectifying compression issues, COLA, etc.

It should also encompass not just tenure-line faculty, but non-tenure track faculty (full-time and part-time) It has to be about ALL teachers, esp. since the learning conditions of students are largely dependent on contingent faculty (more in some colleges / depts. than others)

April SEC: Present completed joint resolution along with data from the updated financial report

April SENATE: Present Resolution for vote; hopefully the SGA will have written and presented their own as well.

The second meeting occurred at the normally scheduled day and time on 2/24/2022. The Provost attended and made a plea for us to wait for the long-awaited compensation model currently being addressed by Human Resources and the consulting firm. Most faculty remain skeptical as some information being disseminated indicate that college deans are to construct a compensation plan with their budget. This is apparently not the case; all planned compensation budgets remain centrally controlled. Chair Atkinson indicated that compensation plans should be a key component of the WKU Strategic Plan. Provost Fischer agreed and made note. All parties agreed that the issues cannot be resolved in a single academic year but that a plan is needed!