

St. Olaf College
Resource Planning Advisory Committee Minutes
January 11, 2017 ~ 8:00am-9:00am
Tomson Hall 200

Members Present:

Cheri Floren	Jan Hanson	Michael Kyle
Steve Lindley	Chris George	Mike Goodson
Angie Mathews	Steve Freedberg	Marci Sortor
Matt Lasnier for Evan Lebo		

Members Absent:

Matt Richey

Staff Present:

Anita Aase

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Hanson at 8:00 am. Quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes are not formally approved but are provided on the shared drive.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

Membership

Hanson is soliciting two additional committee members per the approved charter. This announcement was made January 10, 2017 at the All Staff Meeting.

Capital Budget Process

Mathews explained the capital budget is used to maintain our facilities and purchase big ticket items. We define “capital” as an item that costs >\$5000 with a useful life of greater than five years. Capital items include library acquisitions, science equipment, and buildings (brick & mortar). In FY11-12 the decision was made to allocate 2.5% of unrestricted revenue (cash) for capital, and put the remainder of the annual net operating change into the endowment . This was effective FY12-13, which resulted in decreased cash available for capital as it was redirected to the endowment. Additionally, at that time the college had a large cash reserve built up for capital. We have since been spending more on capital than we are generating, and thus dipping into cash reserves to fund capital projects. The combination of reduced funding with the redirection of cash to endowment, and the spending down of the accumulated capital cash reserves has led to a decrease in capital funds available for future capital spending than we have been used to spending on capital in the past. The Board of Regents was very clear when we took out last year’s Holland Hall loan that the college would “tighten the belt” and engage in conscientious decision-making in regard to future capital projects.

This committee thinks it would be helpful to know on what projects funds have been spent. Should the college bid projects or are we content with Boldt? Is there an appetite on the part of the BOR to take on additional debt to complete some of the resident hall projects? A group consisting of Roberta Lembke, Dan Dressen, Suzie Wegner, Pete Sandberg and Kevin Larson have begun to meet to prioritize capital spending for future years. Mathews is beginning conversations with facilities to prioritize capital projects in the upcoming year to adjust for the anticipated Holland Hall overage.

FUTURE BUSINESS:

- February – Review submitted budget scenarios

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

ADJOURN - Meeting adjourned at 8:47am.

NEXT MEETING – February 8 at 8am, TOH200

Recorded by: Anita Aase