**St. Olaf College**

**Budget Advisory Committee Minutes**

**May 27, 2021 ~ 4:00 pm**

**Virtual Meeting**

Members Present:

|  |  |  |
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| Stacey Argabright | Carly Eichhorst | Michael Kyle |
| Sarah Burt | Mike Goodson | Ryan Sheppard |
| Filip Dusek | Jan Hanson | Marci Sortor |
|  | Alissa Jorgensen | Mary Trull |

Members Absent:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Seth Binder |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Staff & Others:

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| Angie Mathews | Chris George |  |

**Call to Order:** Hanson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the 5/20/21 were approved.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Aspirational budget

* Prevent frivolous buying at year-end – use it or lose it mentality
* Prioritize student facing experiences
* Have some ethos statements to give permission to prioritize certain spending that really emphasize our core priorities.
* Emphasize instruction in the budget – faculty investments and understanding the difference that makes to students with having excellent faculty members, smaller classes, etc.
* More staff resources to support the students – invest in student support services
* CILA and CURI – developing/collaborating with career services and high impact practices and fund faculty positions to help partner with businesses, orgs, etc.
* Contingency fund – having a contingency plan for any obstacles in the future
* Invest in student experience - services to improve our student experience, and shrink class sizes and enhanced course offerings on instructional side
* Support and expand our educational excellence
* Instead of investing in the endowment, how do we reinvest into areas that need additional investments (e.g., software, etc.)
* Investments to improve market position to recruit classes
* Technology, software, innovation
* Improved work/life balance – instead of doing more things, what can we stop doing? Increased anxiety and depression with having too much to do, both for students and employees.
* Exploration of ungrading system
* Jan shared other items that have come up in other discussions: continue to meet full need, merit pay, professional development, development of the whole person, student life investment, mental health, advising and mentoring, new student orientation and transition, equity and access fund, diversity (employees), technology, innovation fund, contingency fund, diversity equity and inclusion initiatives, facilities/capital investments, programs
* Prioritize items on the list, such as diversity, mental health services
* Retention – ask students if they considered transferring, what happened that made them stay, why did they want to go, etc.

1. Summer communication Plan – Michael Kyle will keep us up to date with enrollment updates over the summer. Jan will work on categorizing the topics into bigger themes. Send updates on what we hope to accomplish.
2. Closing Thoughts/Announcements: Relook at SRAP reports. The organization of the training topics for the meeting has been very helpful. We likely won’t meet weekly in the fall. We may be able to meet in person, but may also have flexibility to meet virtually, if preferred.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

* **Next Fall - TBD**

**Meeting Adjourned** at 5:00 pm.

Recorded by: Angie Mathews