

**BUDGET COUNCIL**  
**Minutes**  
**March 25, 2024**

**Attended:** Steve Angle, Brent Goldberg, Jerold Hale, Robert Dooley, Kim White, Theresa Liedtka, Vanasia Parks, Chris Sherbesman, Allison Evans, Mark Wharton, Vicki Farnsworth, Valerie Rutledge, Melita Rector, Pamela Riggs-Gelasco, Abeer Mustafa, Ahad Nasab, Laure Pou, Chamyra Teasley, Linda Frost, Michelle Deardorff, Reinhold Mann, Ethan Carver

**Absent:** Joshua Tyler, Stacy Lightfoot, Tony Parsley, Susan Lazenby, Bryan Johnson, Donald Reising. Thomas Wilson

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Vice Chancellor Mr. Brent Goldberg and Provost Jerold Hale, Budget Council Co-Chairs, welcomed everyone to the Budget Council financial report meeting.

Mr. Goldberg recognized Chancellor Angle and asked him to please start the meeting with welcome and opening remarks.

Chancellor Angle thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. Chancellor Angle also thanked everyone for participating in all the budget open forums and for expressing great ideas. Chancellor Angle asked everyone to please look at the budget and figure out ways to save money and what is the best way to spend money to make a positive impact on retention and across the board.

Chancellor Angle turned the meeting over to Vice Chancellor Goldberg.

Vice Chancellor Goldberg started off by thanking Mr. Chris Sherbesman and Ms. Allison Evans for all the work they have done. Mr. Goldberg stated that he will be very transparent about where we are and where we need to go. Mr. Goldberg reviewed the Budget Council presentation to the committee and went over the FY 25 budget process timeline, recap briefly from the last meeting in December 2023 and proposed the balanced budget. Mr. Goldberg stated that the budget process will include the planning phase, approvals, finalize the budget, have the Budget Town Hall and the Campus Advisory Board meetings then the estimated budget will be proposed to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Goldberg stated to the committee that the **Budget Input Session** sheet, that was included in their packet, was to let everyone know we had the sessions, we listened to their concerns and input their ideas into the budget. Mr. Goldberg discussed **The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Preliminary Incremental Budget Allocation FY 2025** as well. **(Please review all documents along with the Budget Council Meeting presentation that is on the Budget and Finance website).**

Mr. Goldberg mentioned that they will develop a strategic financial plan that will go along with the strategic planning. Mr. Goldberg stated that the three-year strategic plan will include enrollment, tuition, compensation, how to correct marketing issues and start thinking about things we need to spend money on over the next few years. Mr. Sherbesman mentioned that over the past 2 to 3 years, the budget has been tight and we have been catching up with recurring budget items that were needed and over the last year, we have made huge headway. Mr. Goldberg stated that his goal would be to discuss what it would look like to do a reallocation on campus to make sure that we are funding our strategic partners as a campus. Mr. Goldberg asked the committee if they had any questions.

Ms. Vanasia Parks asked about the mandatory fee changes, specifically if the green fee would be eliminated from the fee schedule. Mr. Goldberg mentioned that it will be removed from the fee schedule and added to the student activity fee.

Chancellor Angle suggested that we have some one-time money for investments where we could allocate dollars to spend on a three-year basis. Chancellor Angle stated that these investments need to be monitored during three-year pilot to determine if the return on the investment is successful or not. Mr. Goldberg agreed with this.

Ms. Chamyra Teasley asked what the proposed dollar amount with the increasing fees would look like this year with housing, meal plan and parking and what it looked like when compared to other years. Mr. Sherbesman stated that the tuition and mandatory fees would be \$152.00 per student per semester, and it varies for meal plans and housing. Mr. Sherbesman told Ms. Teasley that he would follow up with the correct quote and reach back out to her. Ms. Teasley also asked about the room rate increase. Dr. Abeer Mustafa mentioned that housing looks at all costs and makes a request for an increase between 3-4% based on the cost of insurance, water, and utilities.

Ms. Theresa Liedtka asked if the source of the reallocations were all the same type of funding like online fees or were they each looked at individually and were there any guide rails around the reallocation process regarding the fees. Mr. Sherbesman stated that everything is looked at across the board but adjusting income pertaining to enrollment has not been done. Mr. Goldberg mentioned that most of the money is being invested in compensation, which was identified by faculty and staff via survey responses. Mr. Goldberg stated that we are not increasing the parking fee and we will find another way to cover those increases.

Chancellor Angle asked Mr. Goldberg to discuss the salary increase. Mr. Goldberg said that all campuses will have a 3% salary increase across the board. Ms. Laure Pou stated that any faculty and staff that did not receive a satisfactory review will not get the increase.

Chancellor Angle stated that we are keeping the tuition as low as possible, and we did increase the UT Promise to \$75K per family income as this will enable families to send their children to UT free of tuition. Mr. Goldberg stated that we have a reallocation in scholarships that will cover half a million dollars to absorb some of the scholarship changes like the UT Promise increase.

Vice Chancellor Goldberg turned the meeting over to Provost Jerold Hale.

Provost Hale thanked and welcomed everyone for attending today's meeting. Provost Hale mentioned that the income we have coming in is shown on page 2 and 3 of **The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Preliminary Incremental Budget Allocation FY 2025**. Provost Hale stated that certain programs were proposed to the Tennessee Higher Education Committee (THEC) to receive money for the new nursing building and other new programs. Provost Hale mentioned that the new programs as well as new nursing building should result in new enrollments. Provost Hale said with these projected enrollments, the budget will include new faculty and staff line to support these new programs. The nursing program is able to take on more students and meet the community demand to expand the nature of the programs and the cohort sizes. Provost Hale stated that we will need to add additional faculty members because of the accreditation requirements.

Provost Hale mentioned that there is discussion with the Academic Counsel with all Deans and Dr. Michelle Deardorff that pertains to faculty travel. Provost Hale is discussing as well with all Deans and Dr. Deardorff whether they should push the money out to colleges or let the departments manage the disbursements of funds. Provost Hale stated that other options to think about are adjunct faculty members that may benefit from professional development or travel costs if they meet the stipulations that will improve their instructions. Provost Hale mentioned that Academic Affairs will be pushing out money to help with professional development opportunities for staff as well, but more discussions will be taking place regarding this.

Mr. Goldberg asked the committee if they had any other questions or concerns regarding all the information they have received today. Mr. Sherbesman stated that after reviewing the document, please let us hear back from each of you by either calling the Budget and Finance Office or via the "Budget Chatt" inquiry/dialogue - located on the Budget and Finance website, as it is anonymous, to give feedback, comments or to ask any questions regarding any aspect of the budget process. **Please remember all Budget Council materials are placed on the Budget and Finance website.**