



Budget, Goals & Plans Committee

BUDGET INFORMATION SURVEY 2005

May 3, 2005

Ninety faculty and staff participated in the 2005 web survey, compared to fifty in 2004.

- 1. The purpose of the budget process is to make financial decision-making more inclusive, transparent and consultative. Have you discussed your department's budget requests in a departmental meeting?

Table with 5 columns: Choices, 2005 Replies, 2005 Survey, 2004 Survey, 2003 Survey. Rows: Yes, No, Not Applicable, No response.

- 2. Were you given an opportunity to participate this year in a departmental meeting regarding budgeting for?

Full-time faculty/staff (PSR) for 2005 -- 06?

Table with 5 columns: Choices, 2005 Replies, 2005 Survey, 2004 Survey, 2003 Survey. Rows: Yes, No, Not Applicable, No response.

Full-time faculty/staff (PSR) for 2006 -- 07?

Table with 5 columns: Choices, 2005 Replies, 2005 Survey, 2004 Survey, 2003 Survey. Rows: Yes, No, Not Applicable, No response.

■ **Part-time faculty/staff (PST) for 2005 -- 06?**

Choices	2005 Replies	2005 Survey	2004 Survey	2003 Survey
Yes	28	31%	38%	32%
No	32	36%	34%	38%
Not Applicable	19	21%	16%	20%
No response	11	12%	12%	10%

■ **Supplies, travel & equipment (OTPS) for 2005 -- 06?**

Choices	2005 Replies	2005 Survey	2004 Survey	2003 Survey
Yes	43	48%	62%	58%
No	35	39%	28%	31%
Not Applicable	7	8%	4%	4%
No response	5	6%	6%	7%

**3. Are you satisfied with the level of discussion concerning budget requests for your department?**

Choices	2005 Replies	2005 Survey	2004 Survey	2003 Survey
Yes	55	61%	60%	62%
No	28	31%	38%	34%
Not Applicable	5	6%	2%	3%
No response	2	2%	0%	1%

**4. Do you think that the budget allocation process within your department is equitable?**

Choices	2005 Replies	2005 Survey	2004 Survey	2003 Survey
Yes	54	60%	60%	69%
No	24	27%	28%	22%
Not Applicable	10	11%	8%	4%
No response	2	2%	4%	5%

**7. Your status:**

<b>Choices</b>	<b>2005 Replies</b>	<b>2005 Survey</b>	<b>2004 Survey</b>	<b>2003 Survey</b>
Faculty	70	78%	80%	73%
Professional staff	20	22%	20%	27%

**8. Affiliation**

<b>Choices</b>	<b>2005 Replies</b>	<b>2005 Survey</b>	<b>2004 Survey</b>
School of Business	4	4%	8%
School of Education	7	8%	10%
School of Fine and Performing Arts	11	12%	18%
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	37	41%	42%
School of Science and Engineering	8	9%	6%
Others (4 Administration + 5 Library + 2 Affairs + 1 Athletics +1 Programs + ..)	20	22%	12%

**5. What suggestions do you have for further improvements in communicating about and involving faculty and staff in the budget process?**

- ◆ Inclusion of Adjuncts & TAs in the budget process. Communication with all via meetings & memos.
- ◆ OPTS was not available from Dean's Office
- ◆ The issue seems not to be at the dept level but at the higher levels, where major expenses and goals are often simply handed downward.
- ◆ More information should be provided regarding funding from other than "State" accounts.
- ◆ As an adjunct, I have no opportunity to attend meetings.
- ◆ I am satisfied that there are discussions within my department, but I don't feel as if faculty members have a say in the overall budget decisions of the college, particularly regarding lines, adjunct salaries, etc.

- ◆ Enforce that meetings actually take place
- ◆ [...] has never discussed the budget with the faculty and staff of [...] who funds his activities. If he were to make the budget more transparent, they could suggest ideas instead of [...] making all the decisions by himself. In fact, it has been only a financial crisis due to low enrollment of [...] students that is now forcing him to invest in marketing changes that we have been suggesting for years.
- ◆ There is minimal funds to get excited about.
- ◆ Explain the budget process to all faculty during the orientation by providing them with an explanatory document of budget policies and procedures.
- ◆ I am an adjunct, so I have absolutely no input, nor am I informed, of budgetary subjects.
- ◆ Increasing money for part-time faculty.
- ◆ I would like info on how the process works: where the money comes from, how much, who allocates it, what decisions impact the allocations.... Maybe a written flyer or something like that with this info on it?
- ◆ The accounting process here is rather vague. There seem to be adequate funds, but accounts, sources, approval levels, etc. have not been shared with me in any formal way (except for a yearly Fiscal Year Cut-Off Dates memo.) Do we have documentation? Can it be made available to those who need it?
- ◆ With regard to the budget, the School of Business should have some form of faculty governance introduced.
- ◆ Better leadership.
- ◆ A new governor
- ◆ Department chairs should consult regarding use of the department budgets for needs of individual faculty members. Dean needs to be more open about his use of funds (among other things).
- ◆ I am satisfied with my departmental process, but unclear as to the process used by the Dean, Provost and President when approving (or not approving) the departmental requests. This information would be very helpful to know initially.
- ◆ The budget is the most political of processes in a highly politicized College. No one speaks about the budget as anything other than a meaningless set of numbers copied from the SUNY central home page. Why not open up the Dean's budgets for each of the schools. That would be interesting and would help to put individual departments in context. I'd really like to see that discussion.
- ◆ It would be good if a reminder were posted concerning the timeline of the budget and the negotiations. Would this be too much for your committee? Maybe these dates would be impossible to pin down, considering the state's unpredictable way of operating in this realm. Maybe you are doing this, and I missed it. If so, I apologize. With the plethora of info circulating via all the different media, it is easy to tune out and not have time to keep up. This of course, cannot be blamed on the committee. We do have the UUP Voice and should read it, but a gentle reminder ahead of time before the survey might help the various participants in scheduling meetings, discussions, etc. You probably did that, also. If so, please continue the practice. Email would be the likely chosen means, since the survey comes to us via that route.

## 6. Other comments:

- ◆ When all was said and done, the OTPS departmental budgets for 2004-2005 were not based on input provided by departments. They were based on previous funding levels. The budgeting process did not in any way inform the budgets.
- ◆ Certain requests for services from facilities are only performed if approval is provided to charge labor and materials to department OTPS accounts. Why is it appropriate for a department to have to pay for labor that is to be provided by SUNY staff/employees?
- ◆ We discussed it for a few minutes at a department meeting. There really was little to say, so the budget stayed like last year's.
- ◆ Money for research should be allotted to each department.
- ◆ The Business School does not discuss department budgets because we don't have departments.
- ◆ I am interested in a mentoring program for TA's conducted by part time faculty for real compensation.
- ◆ Our dept. has had discussions in the past; this year it did not happen for whatever reason
- ◆ As in previous years, we have received a report via email from the Dean, in which he outlined the School's fundraising efforts and described the state budget categories. The budgeted 2003-2004 amounts were reported, any shortfall in budgeted compared to actual needs was noted, and the lack of flexibility resulting from required spending within categories was described. This report on last year's activities does not, in my opinion, seem to be an effective means to make the financial decision-making process more inclusive.
- ◆ We need more OTPS money!
- ◆ Our division has been extremely busy this semester with the installation of the new [...] and also assessment planning, and I think that has impacted our discussions, or lack thereof. The level of discussion was decidedly less than in past years, but I do not fault the department administration for this, as I myself and most others just have not had time to devote ourselves to the matter. The [...] director presented the budget in a general [...] meeting and it was approved. It was necessary to leave it pretty much in the hands of the [...] director this year, as to the assigning and balancing of the different departments' allocations within the [...]. I am grateful that she took the job mainly on her shoulders, as the [...] Management Team, which normally meets with the director to discuss and plan, was absolutely too busy to discuss the budget yet this time around! I assume also that the assistant to the director was involved, but am not really privy to that information.