

MONTHLY COMMITTEE and/or LIAISON REPORT

COMMITTEE OR LIAISON: Budget & Finance

DATE & LOCATION OF MEETING: Thursday, October 1, 2015, 11 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Present: Michelle Lowery (Chair), Robert Dufrene, Shelly Ortiz, and Jennifer Springstead. Also present from Staff Senate were Tammy Millican (President), Trey Truitt (President-Elect), Ramon Lopez (Chair of Governmental Relations Committee) and Melonie Milton (Staff Senate Administrative Coordinator).

Absent: Igor Matkovic & Kevin Owens.

GUESTS: Jason Droddy
Executive Director of Policy & External Affairs
LSU Office of the President

Zac Lemoine
Coordinator for External Affairs
LSU Office of the President

Tommy Smith
Associate Vice President of Budget & Planning and Vice Provost for Finance

SUMMARY:

Welcome & Introductions

- Treasurer Lowery welcomed guests and introduced them to the committee.
- Staff Senators introduced themselves.
- Treasurer Lowery shared that the guests had been invited to discuss the LSU budget and how it is impacted by the Louisiana Legislature.

Government Impact on LSU

- Jason Droddy discussed the following topics with the committee.

State Contracts with Government Agencies

- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Health and Hospitals
- Department of Natural Resources

Federal Influences

- Higher Education Act (Reauthorization)

Louisiana Legislature Highlights

- Revenue bills – Responsible for stabilizing higher education and LSU's budget for FY2016.
 - TOPS
 - LA Grad Act
 - Tuition & Fees
 - Taxes
- Two documents were shared with the group. Both are attached to this report.
 - Report on 2015 Legislature & Legislative Races
 - Capitalizing on LSU's Success to Build Louisiana's Competitive Edge
 - Document shared by President Alexander
 - Report on 2015 Legislature & Legislative Races
 - Provides overview of voting patterns for legislators regarding revenue bills. Patterns are reported in three groups of votes for revenue bills.
 - Notes one tax increase for the year (cigarettes)
 - Other revenue measures were related to rollbacks in tax incentives and exemptions for certain types of activities
 - References newsletter published by the Louisiana Legislative Fiscal Office (link provided below). Newsletter includes overview of revenue measures considered for 2015.
 - Senators were encouraged to reach out individually to their legislators and ask them how they plan to support LSU if elected.
 - Tiger Advocates, group led by the LSU Alumni Association, sent emails to all of the gubernatorial candidates to request responses to six questions (attached). Responses were posted on the LSU Alumni Association's website at www.lsualumni.org.

The LSU Budget

- Tommy Smith shared a PowerPoint presentation with the committee that outlined the total operating budget for 2015-2016 (attached).
 - \$1.0 billion
 - Gifts, contracts, other \$267 million
 - Operating budget \$529 million
 - Auxiliaries \$208 million
 - Smith noted that this is the first year that the budget included the Office of the President and the Paul M. Hebert Law School.
 - The budget does not include the LSU AgCenter, Pennington Biomedical Research Center or other LSU campuses.
 - The University Auxiliaries pay a 5% fee.
 - The Operating Budget is made up of the following:
 - Tuition and fees 70.2%
 - State funds 25.8 %
 - Other 4% (self-generated fees)
 - Tuition and fee history is included in the handout. Notes and increase of \$13,153.10 in the out-of-state student fees from FY2009 to FY2016.

LINKS:

http://lfo.louisiana.gov/files/publications/July_2015_Volume4_Issue1.pdf

SUBMITTED BY:

Michelle Lowery