



**Meeting of the Budget Development Group #4
February 3, 2023
Minutes**

The following members participated: Elizabeth Fullerton, Robert Inglis, Nate Lesser, Matt Maston, Gene Ouellette, Courtney Pringle Carver and Jennifer Tomes

1. Minutes

The January 20, 2023, minutes were approved as circulated.

2. Vice-President Finance and Administration (VPFA) Budget Submissions & Priorities

R. Inglis said his top priorities were:

People & Culture

Labour relations position joint with Provost. Hoping this position will help avoid the likelihood of a future strike which will provide nonmonetary benefits.

Facilities Management

COVID related costs

Cost for replacement of air filters pan University – 750,000 sq ft

Inflationary increases

Facilities Management materials budget has not received an increase in the past 20 years. Cost of materials has increased substantially requiring a significant increase.

Computing Services

Data centre migration

Currently all our data is stored at UNB. They are eliminating their data centre and moving all their data to the cloud. This amount represents the initial cost to obtain some resources to explore options. This a project that must be done and is critical in terms of operations.

Cyber security

We have a lot of risks and exposure. It is important that we invest in a resource relative to our cyber security on campus to mitigate the risk. Expectation is increasing that in order to maintain our insurance in the future we invest in this area.

Ellucian system support

There are improvements and updates to the Ellucian system that will need to happen over the next few years. Additional resources are required to make this happen.

Equipment (\$50,000)

This is a pan University request.

Consulting fees (\$25,000)

This is a pan University request.

Other considerations include:

- Leadership Development and Staff training
- Inflationary increases across the board
- Increase in minimum wage
- Deferred maintenance – alteration and renovations
- Changes in funding approach by GNB

3. Methodology for Prioritizing Requests

This agenda item to be brought forward for discussion at next meeting February 10.

4. Financial Aid

C. Milner provided a high-level overview of financial aid spending.

A fulsome discussion was held.

- It was noted that financial aid costs have increased but first year student numbers have not substantially.
- The University has increased the financial aid budget in Operating by \$1.3 million over the last few years. This is driven by both an increase in entrance scholarships and renewals.
- Large named scholarships in the amount of \$600,000 are divided among few students.
- How we spend our financial aid is very different from other schools.
- While it isn't the responsibility of the BDG to determine the financial aid strategy, it is within the scope of the Committee to identify issues and concerns and make recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trudy Hicks