



Meeting of the Budget Development Group # 10
March 20, 2023
Minutes

The following members participated: Anne Comfort, Elizabeth Fullerton, Jeff Hennessy, Robert Inglis, Nate Lesser, Gene Ouellette, Courtney Pringle-Carver and Jennifer Tomes

1. Minutes

The March 13, 2023, minutes were approved as circulated.

2. Recommendations of Priorities

The main purpose of today's meeting was to discuss the request list and make final recommendations.

There was unanimous support of adding funding for the data centre migration and the digital marketing initiative. The data centre migration must happen as UNB will be closing the existing centre and moving to the cloud. The additional funding next year is the beginning of a three-year project and will require additional funding. The digital marketing initiative follows on the increase in 2022-23 of a position to manage digital marketing. The initiative has measurable goals and if unsuccessful can be discontinued.

It is difficult to quantify many of the other requests or draw a straight line to recruitment or retention. It was noted that not doing certain items may result in a loss of students. It was stated that retention is equally as important as recruitment. Students and programs need adequate support.

There was general agreement that new funding should be spread across the University. Where the University decides to invest sends a message to the community and can have an impact downstream.

Robert Inglis stated that the expectations of the Board have not changed. If we have a deficit we must have a plan that shows a path to sustainability.

Several items on the list were categorized as a "cost of doing business". Inflation, changes to minimum wage, etc, will have an impact on the University without additional funding. The benefits of increases may not be linear but there are minimum amounts of new funding required or units will be doing less.

Cost efficiencies and reductions were not part of the BDG's mandate. It is difficult to provide recommendations on sustainability when only considering one side of the equation. C. Milner stated that a more robust and longer term planning process would need to take place for this to happen.

It was stated that financial aid funding should be maintained but the strategy should be reviewed.

It was stated that funding for growth areas should be a high priority.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trudy Hicks