

Financial and Administrative Policy Minutes
19th Meeting, AY 2022-23

Monday, February 20, 2023, 9:00 am

Meeting held remotely; Zoom meeting ID: 997 1982 8892

Members: David Spanagel (HUA, Chair), Hal Walker (CEAE), Rob Dempski (CBC), Joe Sarkis (BUS), Kris Sullivan (Associate VP of Academic Affairs)

Absent: Mike Horan (Executive VP and CFO, *Ex Officio*)

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:02am
2. The agenda was approved
3. The Minutes of the 18th meeting were provisionally approved as amended, pending review by Donna Stock (Vice President of University Advancement)
4. LSBC budgeting process (Update)

Kris Sullivan gave FAP an update on issues related to the Life Sciences and Bioengineering Center (LSBC) budgeting process. Since our the last FAP meeting, Kris Sullivan met with Anita Mattson (Interim Head Chemistry and Biochemistry), Reeta Rao (Interim Head Biology and Biotechnology), Rob Dempski, and Susan Roberts (Head Chemical Engineering) to discuss the budgeting process in the LSBC. Based on this meeting, it appears that the needs of the LSBC as identified by the associated Department Heads and PIs may be different than the needs established by the staff of the LSBC, with the needs established by the staff of the LSBC taking precedence in the allocation of funds. As a next step, Kris Sullivan plans to meet with Bogdan Vernescu (Vice Provost for Research) to learn more about and discuss this possible budgeting issue in the LSBC.

Joe Sarkis asked whether this particular case represents a bigger issue with respect to checks and balances in the operation of centers like LSBC at WPI. Kris Sullivan indicated that numerous checks and balances are in place (e.g. through Workday) and that the particular issue occurring at LSBC is still being determined. Kris Sullivan also noted that the Deans meet frequently with the Provost's office to discuss issues. Joe Sarkis highlighted the challenge and need to align administrative structures within the structure Workday in order to effectively manage budgets, etc. Kris Sullivan noted some processes have been changed (e.g., the hiring of TAs and RAs) to better align with Workday. David Spanagel asked whether issues may also be occurring in terms of allocating space. Kris Sullivan indicated that there is a campus "space committee" (comprised of the Deans, Vice Provost for Research, Vice President of Campus Planning and Facilities, the Provost, and others) that is convened on an ad hoc basis to oversee allocation of inter-school spaces. In general, FAP is interested in determining how WPI can be more proactive in identifying these types of issues in the future.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 10:03am.

Respectfully,
Hal Walker
FAP Secretary