A Resolution on Budgetary Openness at Purdue University

Whereas, the consolidated budget of Purdue University is sufficiently complicated that it can be best evaluated in its entirety by a small number of experts,

Whereas, some general aspects of the consolidated budget are, nonetheless, of major concern to the faculty and staff,

Whereas, the budgets of the individual units have great influence on the faculty, staff and the programs and research projects that they run and are responsible for,

Whereas, some peer universities have budgets and budgetary processes readily available, typically available via Worldwide Web,

Be it resolved, the Purdue University Senate proposes administrators, faculty, and staff adopt the following best practices in establishing and communicating the consolidated budget of the University and those of the College, School, Department, and Research Center units:

a) Continuing oversight of the consolidated budget by the Budget, Interpretation, Evaluation and Review (BIER) Committee. The chair of the BIER Committee should report its findings annually and in person to either the URPC or the Senate as a whole.

b) Preparing a comprehensive report on the tuition freeze, including answers to the following questions: Where have the resources to freeze come from? How long is the tuition freeze expected to
This report should also include an implementation plan for future years of the freeze, including answering the following questions: Where will resources for future years of the freeze come from? Which University programs, if any, would be disadvantaged to provide funds to continue the freeze?

c) Revealing and explaining the policies for return of grant overhead by the budgetary units (Colleges, Schools, Departments and Research Centers) of the University.

d) Revealing and explaining the centralization of faculty hiring lines in order to promote a more informed distribution of faculty salary lines to align with the strategic planning in the budgetary units.

e) Revealing and explaining the factors that affect allocation of moneys to the budgetary units to promote decisions by the units themselves that will align better with the incentives for allocation, especially in regard to promoting student enrollment and establishing appropriate courses and degree programs.

f) Revealing and explaining the effects of and any rules on the generation and retention of independent revenues by the units.

g) Revealing and explaining the consequences of unbalanced budgets for the units, both in surplus and in deficit.

h) Revealing and explaining an accounting of the costs of research for the University and the costs of teaching, including that for different kinds of research and teaching.

i) Providing for enhanced transparency in the preparation of budgets in the units, including a transparent timeline for the preparation of the yearly budget in all the units. This timeline should include a date for the presentation of the tentative budget to the faculty and staff of each unit to be followed by a comment period before final adoption.
Approved by URPC, December 8, 2017:

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