



PLANNING & BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 28, 2026

Time: 9:00AM

Voting Members	Title	Present?
Raaj Kurapati	Executive Vice Chancellor and COO	Yes
Dr. Ashley Harkrider	Interim Dean - College of Health Professions	Yes
Dr. Cindy Russell	VC for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs	Yes
Dr. Jessica Snowden	VC for Research	Yes
Dr. Wendy Likes	Dean - Nursing	Yes
Dr. Mike Hocker	Dean - Medicine	Yes
Dr. Reginald Frye	Dean - Pharmacy	Yes
Peggy Reisser	Staff Senate President	Yes
Dr. Karen Derefinko	Faculty Senate President	Yes
Dr. Ken Tilashalski	Dean - Dentistry	Yes
Dr. Charles Snyder	VC for Student Success	Yes
Dr. Karla Leeper	VC for Communications and Marketing	Yes
Non-Voting Members	Title	Present?
Michael Ebbs	AVC, Financial Strategy	Yes
George Ninan	AVC, Financial Operations	Yes
Melissa Moore	Associate General Counsel	Yes
Benjie Harmon	AVC Financial Planning and Budget	Yes

Approve Agenda & Minutes from Prior Meetings

- **AGENDA:** The agenda was reviewed, Mr. Raaj Kurapati, Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Dr. Cindy Russell. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mike Hocker.



- **MINUTES:** Minutes from the December 17, 2025 meeting were reviewed by Mr. Raaj Kurapati, and then he called for a motion to accept. The motion was made by Dr. Cindy Russell, with Dr. Charles Snyder seconding the motion.

General Update - Raaj

- Mr. Kurapati kicked off the meeting by discussing campus access and the current road and parking lot conditions related to the winter storm. Additionally, Mr. Karapati provided an update on the VRIP, including the overall number that accepted and reminded the group how those changes would be handled in the upcoming budget cycle.

Tuition rate update – across the board and strategic

- Raaj updated the group, that per his discussion with the Chancellor, that he was proposing a 2% increase across the board. Raaj made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Snyder. The motion passed unanimously.
- Next, Raaj presented the strategic adjustments (increases and some decreases) that had been developed working with each respective college/dean to move toward right sizing and creating competitive, strategic, market-based tuition rates. Raaj made a motion to accept the individualized and strategic rates as developed. Dr. Snowden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

LMS Review

- Dr. Snowden discussed and proposed exploring LMS standardization. Dr. Snowden discussed challenges with data access and student support.



- The group agreed to form a small committee, led by Dr. Snowden and Dr. Russell to explore LMS consolidation, especially as the current Blackboard contract nears time for renewal.

Other Business

- Peggy Reisser, staff senate president, asked a question of her role and voting status as a new member of the committee. Raaj informed her that she is a voting member of the committee.
- Mike Ebbs gave a brief update on timelines surrounding the VRIP budget adjustments
- Dr. Likes briefly discussed the RN-BSN program and it would be getting with Benjie to ensure the tuition rates for the program are included in the documents to be presented to and approved by the Advisory Committee in early February.
- Benjie asked for the strategic budget requests to be submitted within the next two weeks to enable time to consolidate everything and have them ready to begin group discussions at the next PBC meeting.

Closing Statements

- Raaj Kurapati ended the meeting at approximately 9:35 AM