

Faculty Financial Affairs Committee report academic year 2014-2015

September 8, 2014 the committee, in conjunction with the Fiscal Advisory Committee, met with Betty Crockett, who presented SU's plan for the upcoming fiscal year for areas that would be cut, if cutting was necessary, and how we would respond if we received enhancement funds. She also talked about how the new healthcare plan would affect people.

September 26, 2014 the committee met with Alan Selser and Betty Crockett. We discussed ways in which the faculty could have more input into the budget process. They were asked if they would do a budget presentation to the faculty senate, so that the senate would better understand the process, and they readily agreed to, pending an official invitation from the senate. The invitation was later extended and accepted, and the presentation was made in October 2014.

December 11, 2014 the committee, in conjunction with the Fiscal Advisory Committee, met with Alan Selser and Betty Crockett, who updated us on the latest developments in SU's budget situation, which was not good. They anticipated that large cuts would have to be made, and discussed where these would be. The chancellor had specifically recommended a hiring freeze for all USM institutions, and this had been put in place here in November 2014. The purpose of the freeze was to avoid the need to lay off people in the future. Much of the university's costs are in labor. Critical positions could still be filled. Academics decide which faculty positions are critical. Deans have more information about how these decisions are made.

January 15, 2015 the committee, in conjunction with the Fiscal Advisory Committee, met with Alan Selser and Betty Crockett, who updated us on the latest developments in SU's budget situation, which was still not good. They talked about where budget cuts would have to be made, and raised the possibility that tuition would be increased.