

**Faculty Senate Budget Committee**  
Proposal for new committee charge and members  
April 23, 2012

1. The Faculty Senate Budget Committee shall inform the Senate about UNI's budget and finances and assess how UNI's budget priorities affect academic programs. In doing so, it shall consider as appropriate internal and external events that affect the University's resources and priorities. It shall develop and maintain budgetary expertise among its members.
2. The committee shall issue a report to the Senate no later than October 1 of each academic year, and may, at any other time as it deems appropriate, report to the Senate regarding any matter within its charge. The committee shall provide other reports or information to the Senate at the Senate's request.
3. The committee shall consist of four members elected by the Senate after a campus-wide solicitation of nominees and one member appointed by the Senate chair. Members shall serve rotating three year terms.
4. The charge of the committee shall expire at the close of the Spring 2015 semester unless renewed by the Senate.

First, we attempted to further define the charge. The new charge continues the primary responsibility as informing the Senate, as in the previous version, and also makes more prominent language that was previously buried in the previous proposal ("assess[ing] how budget choices affect academic programs"). The second sentence is meant to convey an expectation that the committee would do more than just respond to administration proposals, but would itself consider the various threats and opportunities faced by UNI when advising the Senate on how to represent faculty interests. Finally, we've added an explicit expectation that one of the committee's functions is to foster expertise among its members.

Second, we have changed the date of the committee's annual report to October 1. The thought here is that, by evaluating the budget relatively early in the year, the committee would allow the Senate to be aware of the overall context of the University's decisions throughout the year. As with the previous proposal, the committee is also given the ability to file additional reports on any topic within its charge at any time, and the Senate can refer items to it. We have dropped all other requirements of what the Senate should do with the report, recognizing that the Senate routinely sends copies of its reports to those who might be interested and that the Senate can at any time request a consultative session with administrators.

Third, after getting feedback about the method of selection, we've opted to propose a committee that is large enough to be fairly representative of different interests on campus without being so large as to make it unwieldy. The Senate would solicit nominations / volunteers from across campus and would appoint four people to rotating terms. The Senate chair would also appoint a

member of the committee, which will facilitate coordination and communication with the Senate. Our hope is that the Senate's selection of the committee members would allow the Senate to choose among a self-identified group of interested faculty members willing to spend the time and build the expertise necessary to make this committee effective. Senators would be able to balance the need for expertise on the committee with the need to represent a variety of interests across campus.