

## Executive Vice President and Provost Update, November 16, 2009

### **Budget Process Update**

On Friday, November 20, after the Budget Planning Council (BPC) has had the chance to do a final review, the strategic budget planning process and guiding principles will be shared with the university community.

On November 13, I sent out an email to staff and faculty with information about the status of university budget planning <http://www.ohio.edu/provost/upload/EVPP-Budget-Message-20091110.pdf>. To recap the points made in that email:

- Base-budget reductions will be made but will be distributed strategically in light of the contributions that units make in fulfilling the fundamental academic mission of the institution.
- Each academic unit and academic support unit will be asked to identify a 5% and a 10% base-budget reduction scenario. The prioritization of unit contributions, which will draw on the scenarios, will lead to the assignment of a corresponding reduction from 0% to 10%.
- Strategic decisions are to be evidence based and tied to a set of guiding principles.
- Input on cost-savings, revenue enhancements, and realignments that would result in reduced expenditures and strengthened quality and productivity will be gathered through a university web site and from constituent senates, BPC, deans, and the executive staff.
- It is essential that we view the university as an indivisible whole dependent on contributions from all quarters of the institution for our continued success.

### **Major Code and Program Review Update**

In my October report and at the October Faculty Senate meeting, I discussed the convening of an ad hoc major code and program review committee that consisted of members of Faculty Senate, University Curriculum Council, and deans. The purpose of the group was to make recommendations to me on how to facilitate major code housekeeping and to provide advice on how, in the event of mounting budget pressures, a process could be developed that would be respectful of the Faculty Handbook, but allow for efficient major and/or program changes. The committee completed its work and an update is provided below.

- Major code housekeeping. A major code is a six-digit Student Information System number used to identify a specific academic major. Major codes are used to distinguish particular concentrations within an academic department/school. There are many major codes on the books that have had no student enrollment for three years or more.

Working with UCC procedures the ad hoc committee advised colleges on how to efficiently identify and request removal of inactive major codes. To date approximately 155 program codes have been identified as being inactive.

Pending approval by UCC, these codes will be discontinued. The removal of these codes is not a cost saving measure, but when questions are raised about academic offerings it helps to have a list that reflects as accurately as possible what is currently being offered on our campuses.

- Program review process. As there has been some confusion about this aspect of the ad hoc committee's charge, I want to stress that they were not asked to identify programs that should be reviewed or to launch a program review process. Their work was confined to the question of what would be the best mode of proceeding if budget circumstances warranted program discontinuation.

Their recommendation was to follow the Faculty Handbook (II.D.4 c,d). The process in the Handbook can be pursued with due attention to both the necessary levels of review and the need for timely resolution.

I would like to thank the committee for their guidance. I will proceed as recommended.