

**Joint Planning & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**March 12, 2025**  
**Student Union 2310**

**Meeting called to order promptly at 1:15 p.m.**

**JPB Committee and Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:** Achenreiner, Bearhart (via Teams), Beeby, Brooks, Craig, Engen (via Teams), Ericson, Figueroa, Galbraith, Grattan, Gray, Grunwald, Hohman, Ives, Jax, Kim, Kunkel, McAndrews, Morgan, Narcotta-Welp, Newton, Pope, Richter, Roraff, Schweiger (via Teams), Talbot, Thomsen, Thoune, Trnka, Walz, Weston, Wycoff-Horn, Yu

**Absent:** Guyer, Ziegelman (excused)

**Agenda:**

1. Approval of Minutes from February 12, 2025, as amended by the Committee Chair
  - Motion by Ives, second by Thoune, approved by voice vote
  
2. Presentation: Finance, Budget, & Capital Projects (Stephanie Pope, Chief Financial Officer & Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance)
  - FY25 tuition surplus larger than expected due to strong enrollment
  - All underway capital projects on time and on budget
  - Less budget clarity for FY26 due to not knowing what budget will be
  - Governor signals strong support for UW System
  - Governor pay plan proposed at 5% for FY26 and 4% for FY27
  - Legislature signals less support than Governor
  - UWL budget due to UW System by April 1
  - Legislative Joint Finance Committee work likely will start in April
  - Governor's Capital Budget released on March 10, 2025
    - Prairie Springs remains top priority for UW System
    - UWL has other projects on list (i.e. residence hall fire sprinkler system, boiler burner replacements, and heating boiler capacity increase planning and design)
    - Mitchell Hall renovation not recommended by Governor
  - Follow-up budget questions and discussion followed.
  - Discussed distributed FAQs – Compensation-Related, Instructional Spending, Self-Funded Units
  - Provided data sources with web links
  - Current HR data sources are insufficient making it difficult to answer specific questions; however, Workday should address many of these shortcomings
  - Top future priorities will be informed by upcoming strategic planning process
  - Current priorities include Prairie Springs, state funding increase, employee compensation, and continuing academic excellence
  - UWL has very few financial investments beyond the Foundation

- No current plan for a decrease in funding; has not been indicated by either UWL or UW System
- Very difficult to determine what is spent on instruction
- 78% across university spent on compensation and 22% on S&E/capital expenses
- For Academic Affairs, 94% on compensation and 6.5% on S&E/capital expenses
- 49% spent of overall UWL budget spend in Academic Affairs; 51% on the rest of the university
- Total Academic Affairs S&E/capital expenses is \$7.8 million (~14% of university budget)
- UWL budget philosophy is on-par with most institutions across the country
- Self-funded units include auxiliaries like Residence Life and Parking, as well as several academic programs such as Dosimetry
  - Anything not fully funded by General Purpose Revenue (GPR)
- Self-funded programs are required to pay an administrative overhead
- Questions and discussion followed
- Vice Chancellor Pope's primary background is in Budget; currently has 24 years in higher education
- Prefers incremental budgeting model, used at UWL, because it is simple and transparent
- Importance of being strategic with spending
- UW System provides protections but also obligations
- Vision for JPB: an advisory group to the Chancellor that should be consulted when choices are present
- Further questions and discussion occurred
- JPB Chair thanked Vice Chancellor Pope for extensive comments and details and the committee applauded showing appreciation for the presentation

### 3. Chancellor Update

- Thanks to everyone for their hard work particularly during these uncertain and challenging times
- Closely monitoring federal and state developments. Will only send messages when final decisions occur as opposed to continual updates
- Spent time in Madison recently meeting with legislators about budget
- UWL has very positive impression at state capital
- Governor on campus yesterday and was impressed with UWL
- Meeting with local businesses and visiting adjacent communities
- Meeting with donors in Florida and Arizona
- Thanks to Deans for development work
- Various events happening on campus lately, such as National History Day, visual and performing arts, and athletics
- Men's basketball team is in the Division 3 "Sweet 16"
- Wrestling team, track and field, all in national championships
- Everyone seems ready for Spring Break! Encourages everyone to take time for themselves over the break

4. Provost Update
  - No substantive report
5. Chief Financial Officer Update
  - No report beyond earlier presentation

The JPB Chair provided a preview of upcoming meetings:

- 3/26/2025: Enrollment Planning
- 4/23/2025: Discussion of Future JPB Goals
- 5/07/2025: Wrap-up & Conclusion

**Adjournment at 2:32 p.m.**

Minutes submitted by Karl Kunkel