

Leadership Council on Mission, Planning and Budget
February 28, 2025 Minutes
Booth Library
Witters Conference Room

Voting members present: Todd Bruns, Jon Coleman, Janice Derr, Brian Keith, Ben Marshall, Amber May, Catherine Polydore, Stacey Ruholl, Eric Wahls, Camden Webb, Marjorie Worthington

Voting member absent: John Blue, Melissa Coleman, Marisol Gamboa, Michelle Wayne

Non-voting members: Jay Gatrell, Mike Hutchinson, Mindy Spencer, Cindy Hutchison, Matt Bierman, Anne Flaherty, Josh Norman, Brad Tolppanen for Ryan Hendrickson

1. Call to order – Amber May called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm

2. Approval on minutes - Motion to approve December 6, 2024 minutes. Bruns moved and J. Coleman seconded to approve as written. The motion carried by acclamation.

3. LCMPB Executive Committee Report - None

4. New Business

a. Administrative/Subcommittee Reports

- i. President: President Gatrell gave an update on the “Dear Colleague” letter emphasizing EIU will live up to its commitment to the students, faculty and staff. He invited the group to attend the Town Hall scheduled to take place in the Lecture Hall of Doudna at 3:00 pm on March 26. VP Ryan Hendrickson will be leaving EIU for a presidency position at the University of St. Francis. President Gatrell thanked VP Hendrickson for his many years of dedicated service to EIU. A national search will be launched late summer/early fall and an acting provost will be announced in the next 10 – 15 days. President Gatrell shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the implications and budget impact of the international student decline. The net budget challenge is -\$3 mil. Potential pathways mentioned were fewer small academic departments; streamlining academic majors based on peer comparisons; align EIU’s gen-ed program to IAI-GECC; fewer sections where feasible and high-flex course delivery. Implications of the current structures include administrative costs that are unsustainable. 38% of department chairs supervise 8 or fewer full time Unit A and Unit B faculty members. Fewer administrative lines will increase instruction resources.
- ii. Vice President for Academic Affairs: Brad Tolppanen gave an update for VPAA sharing the budget for the year is \$52 mil with a current \$2.6 mil unencumbered. Out of that an approximate \$1 mil will be used to pay overload with the remainder likely used for summer school. The Dean of Student Success national search is underway and the hope is to have it filled by July 1, 2025.

- iii. Vice President for Business Affairs: VP Bierman shared the following updates. The financial audit is complete. There were two findings; one new and one reoccurring that they are working to correct. The single audit report of Federal Funds was also released. The state compliance audit should be released in late March. During the winter break a redundant internet connection for campus was added as part of an effort to ensure business continuity. The search for an HR Director has been posted and applications are being accepted. The hope is to have someone in place by July 1, 2025. At this time, CMS has not released information concerning the announcement of the closure of the Health Alliance Insurance Plan. It is expected that employees who have this plan will be required to select a different plan during the Benefits choice period. Facilities Reinvestment Plan can be viewed on the website. <https://www.eiu.edu/strategicplan/facilities.php> VP Bierman gave a shout out to the Grounds and BSW's for all their hard work related to the recent winter weather. Facilities Projects updates included: utility tunnel renovation should begin fall 2025; design of the new Science Building continues; campus roof work on Lantz continues and work on the Lantz Field House will begin later this spring; floor in the Student Recreation Center is scheduled to be replaced in March; steam plant smoke stack has been removed.
- iv. Vice President for Student Affairs: VP Flaherty shared that based on expenditures and open encumbrances, they are on track to be within budget. Ledger 2 and bond revenue areas are also on track with the exception of UPD. They have ongoing officer shortages resulting in overtime pay but hope to be fully staffed by the end of the fall semester which will significantly decrease overtime pay. VP Flaherty stated they are actively using every dollar of the Mental Health Early Action on Campus grant of \$231,932 as well as the additional Supplemental Mental Health Grant \$289,995 including coverage of Americorp Volunteer, Shay Stallings. The Food Pantry received the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant from Coles County \$37,500 as well as \$1,000 Swipe Grant. New staff members hired in the MLK Jr. Union are Koty Gough, Assistant Director of University Student Center; Brittany Johnson-Kroeger, Assistant Director of Business & Retail Operations; Ashley Rutledge, Ticket Booth.
- v. Vice President for University Advancement: VP Spencer shared the Raisers Edge Database is progressing well and should launch early summer. Day of Giving will be June 2, 2025 with a faculty/staff event and a student event on the Library Quad. New development officers joining the Development Team are Amber May, Brenda Brown and Haley Brickey. All will be trained on Planned Giving the week of March 3rd. The EIU Foundation funded new trash bins and they will be in place by commencement.
- vi. Vice President for Enrollment Management: VP Norman gave an update on admissions. Applications are up and he is cautiously optimistic for Fall 2025. International student enrollment continues to decline due to the difficulty in obtaining visas from India and Nigeria. Financial Aid was packaged 2 months earlier than last year. ITS and Web Services are collaborating to develop web applications. A section and review team went to Lake Land College to learn about an opportunity to implement Navigate 360, a student success

software. The software has integrated AI that enhances the ability to access student success data.

- b.** Bylaw revisions: Bruns moved and Keith seconded to open for discussion. Bruns made friendly amendment and Chair May accepted. Bruns moved to accept friendly amendment and J. Coleman seconded the motion. Motion carried by acclimation
- c.** J. Coleman moved to approve revised Bylaws and Bruns seconded the motion. Motion carried by acclimation – Revised Bylaws attached to these minutes

5. Adjournment: Coleman moved and Bruns seconded to adjourn at 3:11 pm