Budget Information Committee Report to Faculty Senate March 19, 2018
=====================================================================This academic year, the BIC members proposed the following actions:
1. Better understand current trends regarding tuition and fees for undergraduate and graduate students
2. Determine the university administration’s position on out-of-state students
3. Clarify President Young’s comments on increased budget allocations for retirement benefits
4. Investigate a perception that academic professional track faculty numbers were increasing relative to that of tenure-track faculty

Meeting with Dr. Jerry Strawser, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Two of the primary drivers of budget considerations
- The continued long-term decline in state appropriations as a percent of total revenue
- The steady increase in cost of operations at institutions of higher education seen nationwide

Texas A&M University has maintained very low expenditures overall and minimized increases in tuition and fees.
- Revenues consisting of tuition and appropriations have stayed well below the Commonfund Higher Education Price Index
- Despite having one of the lowest rates of state appropriations, Texas A&M University maintains one of the lowest combined tuition and fee rates of all Vision 2020 peer institutions

Graduate tuition
- Increases in parallel with undergraduate tuition
- Out-of-state tuition waivers
  o The student holds a teaching assistant or research assistant position
  o The student has resided in Texas for 12 months and is not claimed as a dependent by his/her parents
  o The student is the recipient of a TAMU scholarship valued at $1000 or more
- Graduate student fees are determined at the college level.

Out-of-state undergraduate students are being actively recruited by the university
- Out-of-state student numbers will be slowly increased
- Out-of-state to in-state tuition differential will increase from $200 to $400
- The number of students that receive out-of-state tuition waivers will be reduced
- A similar approach is not planned for graduate students
President Young mentioned that an increased allocation in the budget was required to address a growth in retirement benefits

- An increase in the growth rate in research funding had made it difficult to accurately predict the university budget allocation required to cover central benefits for research staff
- The university had not set aside sufficient funds to cover these benefits
- This allocation was increased significantly this fiscal year

**Conclusion**

Texas A&M University continues to run a very conservative and efficient educational operation with high student output in an environment of low levels of state support

**Meeting with Dr. John August, Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost**

- The ratio of academic professional track faculty to tenure-track faculty numbers has remained steady at close to 1:2 for many years
- In the past two years, the hiring of professional track faculty has increased to meet increased teaching demands occasioned by an unexpected surge in undergraduate enrollment
- This shift toward professional track faculty is not expected to be a long-term condition
- The university does not intend to increase student numbers further and expects that, over time, the balance between professional track faculty and tenure-track faculty will return to its long-term average
- As a Tier 1 research-intensive university, Texas A&M has renewed its commitment that most courses are to be taught by tenured or tenure-track faculty members
- The university considers the professional track faculty to be indispensable to its mission
- The university is actively developing programs to improve career development and career opportunities for professional track faculty

**Conclusion**

Texas A&M University has no plans to change its emphasis regarding the roles or participation of professional track and tenure-track faculty