

Senate Council on Research and Scholarship

Statement on Developing Guiding Principles for Budget Reductions

The Senate Council on Research and Scholarship has taken note of the methodology employed by the University to develop a 10% budget reduction plan as requested by the governor. In evaluating the numerous plans submitted by the individual budget units, we find that there is a lack of overarching values used to make these proposals. We ask the Steering Committee to consider the following resolution:

In light of the current 10% budget reduction plans developed across the University, we believe that certain important principles have not been taken into account. We ask that the President, and to the extent possible, the individual budget unit directors review the appropriateness of these plans in light of the following principles:

1. The President's Strategic Work Plan outlines a diverse set of general guidelines and specific activities that was vetted by both on- and off-campus stakeholders. This plan should play an important role in prioritizing any budget reductions.
2. The University's stated goal of entering the top tier of public universities hinges to a significant degree on the programmatic composition of the University. In most cases these programs will be represented by departments, but may include centers and institutes. Budget reductions should not curtail operations in programs with the most significant national presence as indicated by the number of Ph.D. granting programs in toto and at AAU public peers.
3. Decisions on budget reductions must take into consideration both the current level of investment in programs and individuals (e.g., start-up funds) as well potential for success.
4. The finality and irreversibility of budget reductions that result in the elimination of degree-granting programs means that such actions must be done under extreme scrutiny because of the tremendous difficulty and expense the university would face in re-establishing these programs as outlined on the provost's web site (<http://www.aa.ufl.edu/approval/>). Most importantly, elimination of degree-granting programs reduces the viability of the university as a "bank of knowledge" for future generations and reduces the opportunities for students.