Minutes of the Bylaws Budget Committee Meeting
Date: March 26, 2026
Time: 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Location: Petigru 321

Present:
- Carla Flink
- David Fuente
- Barbara Koons-Witt
- F. Wayne Outten, Chair
- Paula A. Vasquez
- Dean Tommy Hodges (Ex-officio)
- Ashley Maciaszek (Ex-officio)

1. **Call to Order and Purpose of the Meeting**
   Wayne Outten called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The minutes from the January 29, 2026, meeting were reviewed and approved by all members.
   The purpose of this meeting was to:
   - Follow up on the Academic Blueprint meeting held on March 23.
   - Nominate and elect the committee chair for the 2026-2027 academic year.
   - Discuss the structure of the first committee report.

2. **Report on the Academic Blueprint meeting**
   Ashley Maciaszek provided an update on the budget report delivered during the March 23 blueprint meeting. A significant highlight from the report was the recorded increase in grants awarded to college faculty.
   Dean Hodges remarked that the college's current status and strategic direction were generally well-received. He emphasized that the college must maintain a focus on the balance between recruitment growth and the retention of current faculty.

3. **Chair Election and Procedural Updates**
   The committee held elections for future leadership:
   - 2026-2027 Chair: Carla Flink was elected to serve as the incoming chair.
   - 2027-2028 Chair: David Fuente was elected to serve the following term.

   The committee discussed a proposal to establish a "Chair-Elect" position. This individual would shadow the sitting chair for one year prior to taking office to ensure continuity. The committee determined that this role does not violate the College Bylaws. This procedural change will be formally presented at the April meeting for a final vote by the full membership.

4. **Structure of Committee Report and Appendix**
   The committee discussed the timeline and requirements for the first committee report. It was noted that while the Bylaws mandate the creation of a report, they do

not dictate specific formatting or deadlines, leaving those details to the committee's discretion.
Wayne Outten committed to creating a "skeleton" outline of the report. This draft will be circulated via email for initial feedback and formally discussed during the April meeting.

5. **New Business**
   - Dean Search: The Dean commended the committee for their active presence during the recent dean interviews, specifically noting the importance of their questions regarding budgetary decision-making.
   - Standing Rules: Noting that the Bylaws allow the committee to "determine internal procedures," it was suggested that the committee develop a document of Standing Rules. This document will be maintained in the committee's Microsoft Teams folder to provide a consistent framework for future members.
   - Next Meeting: The committee briefly discussed the agenda for the April meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:00 am

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula A. Vasquez