

January 23, 2009

The committee held its first regular meeting in Hattiesburg. Co-chairs von Herrmann and Smith presented their plan for how the committee might structure its work. Those present agreed to the plan, as follows:

- 1) Allyson Easterwood, Lynn Smith, and Lynn Estes will present a comprehensive overview of the current Southern Miss budget system, with particular focus on weaknesses of the model and constraints that make adaptation of budgets difficult.
- 2) Three or Four committee members will present Case Studies gleaned from other universities and/or from internal efforts at utilizing other budget approaches to highlight some ways that selection of a model can influence outcomes in differing systems.
- 3) The budget model technical issues selected by the group in the focus groups with Larry Goldstein will be systematically reviewed and decided, to include:
 - All-funds approach (i.e., unrestricted and restricted)
 - Budget balance carryovers permitted
 - Budget contingency; if yes, at what percent/amount?
 - Gross or net budgeting for revenue-generating units
 - Line-item or pool budgeting
 - Multiyear budgeting; if yes, for what period?
 - Reallocation mechanisms
 - Sponsored program overhead recoveries distribution
 - Treatment of vacancy savings
- 4) Based upon those decisions and the background information learned through the case studies, the group believes it will quickly be able to narrow to two or three possible models.
- 5) Finally, using the guiding principles (also done by the focus group process with Mr. Goldstein) the group will select the best single or hybrid model to accomplish these goals and report its recommendations to the Cabinet by July 1, 2009.

Members Easterwood, Smith, and Estes began their presentation, which continued until the end of the meeting.