

Faculty Financial Oversight Committee (FFOC) report of activities for 2024-2025

[Members: Tim Dunn, Chair, David Keifer, Elizabeth Emmert, Michael McCarty, Asli Eski, Maida Finch, Kwanchan Jeon, Jill Caviglia-Harris, David Merson, Joerg Tuske]

By Tim Dunn, Sociology, FFOC Chair

May 15, 2025

The FFOC was not as active in obtaining and analyzing SU budget data as we had hoped due to the implementation of the new Workday software, which caused chaos and upheaval for all things financial for the university, especially fall term. We could not request data due to that process.

The FFOC met 3 times this year and members were active outside the meetings on budget issues, particularly with the faculty senate.

We met in December 2024 with the VP for Administration and Finance, Aurora Edenhart-Pepe, to get an update on how SU finances and budget issues looked, as we were hearing that the state budget would be cut significantly in the spring 2025 legislative session. She presented a very lengthy briefing with numbers powerpoint slides and took questions.

We met again in February 2025, early in the spring term, to go over and more thoroughly discuss and process the large amount of info. that VP Edenhart-Pape gave us in December.

In March and early April 2025 the FFOC chair and several other members were active in collaborating with the faculty senate as they crafted resolutions based in large part on the recommendations in our June 2024 report on Upper Administration vs/ Faculty salaries and position growth. Ultimately, after much preparation, discussion, and debate, the faculty senate passed 3 FFOC-related resolutions in March and early April 2025:

1. Requesting annual reporting of salary data on faculty & upper administration (such as we included in our June 2024 report for 2018-2023).
2. Requesting regular, on-going reporting of justifications for any new administrative positions.
3. Requesting once per term meetings with VP for Administration and Finance for both the faculty senate and the FFOC.

Collectively, the implementation of these 3 resolutions would provide ongoing work for the FFOC to gather, monitor, and analyze data, and hopefully systematize the process going forward. As of Mid-May, the administration has not yet responded to those motions.

In April and May FFOC members were active in discussions and presentations led by the president and vice presidents on the dire Fiscal Year 2026 state budget that would require an estimated \$10 million in cuts from the SU budget. Several FFOC members also continued to gather upper administration position salary spending data, as available, for FY 2024 and 2025, which cumulatively showed a 29% increase from FY 2023 through FY 2025.

The FFOC met a third time May 15, 2025 to discuss the current situation with the 3 faculty Senate resolutions and their possible implementation, the current budget crisis / cutting discussions, and steps to begin fall 2025, particularly to press for more salary spending for faculty and upper administration

positions. The intent is to gather this information so that the faculty can become better informed on budget matters so as to offer better-informed and more meaningful input on budget matters, with the larger goal of keeping high quality instruction and student learning and success (i.e., the larger mission of the university) at the forefront in all budget decision making.