UNIVERSITY BUDGET COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2011 MEETING

I. Time, Location and Attendance:

- 10:00AM, Brookside Room at Administrative Center
- UBC members present: Betty Drees, Lawrence Dreyfus, Gary Ebersole, Provost Gail Hackett (Chair), Carol Hintz, Maureen Hannoun, Tony Luppino, Michael Plamann, Lanny Solomon, Kevin Truman and Mel Tyler.
- Others present: Chancellor Leo Morton, Larry Bunce, Michelle Cone, Sharon Lindenbaum, John Morrissey, Paris Saunders and Karen Wilkerson.

II. Preliminary Administrative Matters:

- The minutes of the October 6, 2011 meeting of the Committee were approved in the form last circulated prior to the meeting.

III. Report on State/System Developments

- Chancellor Morton reported that there were no major developments at the State/System level since the last Committee meeting.
- The Chancellor and the Committee briefly discussed the System’s current recommendation of planning for a possible 5% cut in the State Appropriation, the existing uncertainty as to whether that would be off of the FY 2012 figure based on the original 7% cut, or the adjusted figure when the cut was increased to 8.1%, and the contemplated timetable for tuition setting.

IV. Report on Parking

- Bob Simmons led a report on the Parking auxiliary, covering data on total parking spaces and average usage, recent policies on permit issuance, revenues and expenses, and reserves (including reserves relating to debt service coverage and other needs), and ongoing construction and planning for parking needs, including some discussion of bus transportation initiatives and a potential relationship with ZipCar. Parking Director Michelle Cone provided related information and joined Bob in answering questions.
- Q & A and discussion of the presentation yielded the following:
Discussion will continue regarding the proposal advanced by the Faculty Senate some time ago to adopt a graduated rate system for parking permits (lower fees for personnel with lower salaries).

There will be further discussion with the Provost’s Office of policy issues relating to whether or not faculty and staff possessing parking permits should be allowed to park at metered spots without being ticketed for doing so.

Based on the information presented it appears that parking reserves are not unreasonably high at this juncture.

V. Report on Housing

- Mel Tyler and Paris Saunders presented information regarding the occupancy of University housing and financial information for the Housing auxiliary in general and the Oak Place Apartments, and some historical information regarding what is generally referred to as the “old Twin Oaks Debt.”

- Ensuing Committee discussion resulted in no current recommendation regarding the issue of whether the prior decision to have Housing pay the annual debt service on the old Twin Oaks Debt should be reversed. There was discussion of appreciation of the fact that the current financial circumstances of the Oak Place Apartments and related operations do not show a revenue stream by itself sufficient to handle that debt service. However, it was noted that significant further information regarding the Oak Place operations should be forthcoming soon, and agreed that the issue of that annual debt service, as well as the issue of the old Twin Oaks “deficit” appearing within the Housing auxiliary accounting, should be revisited when such information becomes available.

VI. Discussion of Future Agenda Items Based on Deans/UBC Budget Retreat

- As the meeting was concluding there was some brief discussion of the November 2 Deans/UBC Budget Retreat. It was noted that several Deans had mentioned expense saving and revenue-generating measures their units were implementing in response to the unit-level financial management aspect of the Budget Model.

- In terms of potential agenda items for future Committee meetings coming out of the Retreat, there was discussion of (i) reports on the proposed School of Medicine/School of Biological Sciences partnership; (ii) study of the objectives and funding of the Institute for Urban Educations; and (iii) review of the growth plans (student enrollment and number of faculty) of the Bloch School.