



**2008 Budget Information Survey
Budget, Goals, and Plans Committee**

**Prepared by the
Office of Institutional Research
and Planning**

Owner - Julie Chiarito

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Version 1

	2008	2007	2005	2004
Number of Responses	88	108	90	50

Question 1: The purpose of the budget process is to make financial decision-making more inclusive, and consultative. Have you discussed your department's budget requests in a departmental meeting

	2008 #	2008 %	2007 %	2005 %	2004 %
(a) Yes	59	67%	64%	60%	68%
(b) No	28	32%	33%	30%	28%
(c) Not Applicable	0	0%	2%	8%	4%
(d) No Response	1	1%	1%	2%	0%

Question 2: Was either a hard copy or an email copy of the itemized budget request made available to you for discussing it in a departmental meeting?*

	2008 #	2008 %			
(a) Yes	18	20%			
(b) No	61	69%			
(c) Not Applicable	8	9%			
(d) No Response	1	1%			

* Question for 2007-08 : Were you given an opportunity to participate this year in a departmental meeting budgeting for full-time faculty/staff (PSR) for 2007-08? ---- NO comparison is possible as question changed

Question 3: Were you given an opportunity to participate this year in a departmental meeting regarding for full-time faculty/staff (PSR) for 2009-10? (This includes hiring replacements based on retirements resignations as well as requests for new faculty positions).

	2008 #	2008 %	2007 %	2005 %	2004 %
(a) Yes	43	49%	29%	32%	34%
(b) No	37	42%	45%	40%	44%
(c) Not Applicable	7	8%	23%	21%	20%
(d) No Response	1	1%	3%	7%	2%

Question 4: Were you given an opportunity to participate this year in a departmental meeting regarding for part-time faculty/staff (PST) for 2008-09? (This includes hiring adjuncts and student temp service)

	2008 #	2008 %	2007 %	2005 %	2004 %
(a) Yes	31	35%	40%	31%	38%
(b) No	47	53%	40%	36%	34%
(c) Not Applicable	8	9%	19%	21%	16%
(d) No Response	2	2%	1%	12%	12%

Question 5: Were you given an opportunity to participate this year in a departmental meeting regarding for supplies, travel, and equipment (OTPS) for 2008-09?

	2008 #	2008 %	2007 %	2005 %	2004 %
(a) Yes	49	56%	53%	48%	62%
(b) No	35	40%	44%	39%	28%
(c) Not Applicable	2	2%	3%	8%	4%
(d) No Response	2	2%	1%	6%	6%

Question 6: Are you satisfied with the level of discussion concerning budget requests for your department?

	2008 #	2008 %	2007 %	2005 %	2004 %
(a) Yes	49	56%	55%	61%	60%
(b) No	34	39%	35%	31%	38%
(c) Not Applicable	1	1%	6%	6%	2%
(d) No Response	4	5%	4%	2%	0%

Question 7: Do you think that the budget allocation process within your department is a fair one?*

	2008 #	2008 %	2007 %	2005 %	2004 %
(a) Yes	49	56%	59%	60%	60%
(b) No	21	24%	27%	27%	28%
(c) Not Applicable	12	14%	7%	11%	8%
(d) No Response	6	7%	6%	2%	4%

** Question for 2007-08 : Do you think that the budget allocation process within your department is equitable?

Question 10: Your Status ***

	2008 #	2008 %	2007 %	2005 %	2004 %
Academic Faculty			65%	78%	80%
Professional Faculty			31%	22%	20%
Full-time Academic Faculty	51	58%			
Part-time Academic Faculty	2	2%			
Full-time Professional Faculty	27	31%			
Part-time Professional Faculty	3	3%			
No Response	5	6%	4%	0%	0%

*** Question for 2007-08 : Status only included Academic Faculty, Professional Faculty, or No Response

Did not include indication of Full-time versus Part-time

Question 11: Your Affiliation

	2008 #	2008%	2007 %	2005 %	2004 %
Business, School of	3	3%	4%	4%	8%
Education, School of	8	9%	8%	8%	10%
Fine and Performing Arts, School of	24	27%	28%	12%	18%
Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of	22	25%	30%	41%	42%
Science and Engineering, School of	8	9%	5%	9%	6%
Library	1	1%	5%	****	****
Other	17	19%	18%	22%	12%
No Response	5	6%	4%	4%	4%

**** Included in "Other."

Question 8: What suggestions do you have for further improvements in communicating about and involving faculty and staff in the budget process?

Communicate Please

Greater awareness around the timing and cycle for the budget process. However, the spring is very busy with other competing and important administrative tasks which makes it difficult to spend the necessary time on carefully reviewing budget needs.

Make the process more inclusive by sharing the budget and noting how much is allocated for each segment. Office supplies, salaries, etc...

That the Vice President of Enrollment actually provide the Admissions staff with the opportunity to know what the Admissions allocation is and then allow us to suggest/determine what projects and events are affordable under the allocation. Right now it is all a mystery.

I like the idea of having a copy of the proposed budget.

Our department chair simply never discusses the budget. Obviously the first step would be to address it during a meeting.

Sending budget info prior to meeting.

Discussing different points individually and not a "wash over", quick review.

Allocations should be discussed prior to final decision.

It would be nice to have more information about how the budgeting process works from the top down. There are so many areas that have acronyms that are confusing, that some kind of guidelines or information sheet would be helpful, especially to new faculty members.

Direct support from the VP of Finance and Administration to give a budget session for new chairs and secretaries each year.

I think our department is doing much better than we used to...

Training for new employees regarding the process and clear info from each budget supervisor as to the process for their department.

There may not be enough time for discussion to make sure that faculty and staff positions reflect long-term goals of the department as opposed to immediate needs.

Each Department Head should be told that a Department Meeting concerning budgets is mandatory and all inputs should be considered.

Providing all faculty with all information well before relevant deadlines occur. Having written guidelines that objectively describe how much money is available for what purpose (instead of for what person...)

Department budget decisions involving all full-time staff members not just selected staff. Itemized annual department budget made available. College financial reports

Budgeting should be done as transparently as possible but here it seems to be as non-transparent so one person holds the purse strings and thusly all of the power.

I don't think junior faculty are in a position to question budget decisions, or even ask for more information

Send suggested budget to faculty members prior to dept. meetings. More open/transparent dept./budget discussions.

Have a budget

Get another chair to run the department (elem ed)

If communication within the Department was more transparent and accessible to adjunct faculty, we could be more connected, informed and in touch with many aspects of the University for the benefit of the students and for the Department as a whole.

it takes time, which is in very short supply.

None - process seems to be working well.

It would be helpful if everyone (including PT, adjuncts, support staff) were encouraged to participate in informal discussions before any budget plans are put on paper. By the time I hear about these decisions, I feel that administrators have already pretty much made up their minds.

More information should be posted in MyNewPaltz.edu regarding state budget allocations.

Question 9: Other Comments

Will your committee undertake or suggest Inst. Research undertake a look at spending in Facilities on overtime usage in general and in particular as it relates to inclement weather and clearing the campus of snow, sleet and ice? Also will there be a review of Facilities needs regarding the recently proposed Campus Master Plan? These results should have the opportunity to be broadly and openly discussed across campus and before any final decision is made to go forward with implementation of the Master Plan.

The Vice President for Enrollment is not forthcoming ever with regard to the budget allocation for Undergraduate Admissions. The consultant that the College paid \$9,000 for strongly recommended that the admissions staff be part of the annual budget creation process but that suggestion appears to carry no weight with the vice president; this a waste of a valuable \$9,000.

Although prices are increasing, allocations are not.

Hi, I'm David Hobby, Chair of Mathematics.

We have not been having detailed budget meetings. The reason is that we don't have much choice in our budget. In years past, I've gone through the motions, and we had a five minute discussion during some meeting. But there's really not much to say! We ask for as many tenure track lines as we can, since we know we won't get many anyway. We don't bother asking for money for adjuncts, since the choice will be clear. If the Dean does not want to pay for an adjunct, then we'll just cancel that class. We budget enough for material so we don't run out of the basics, and the rest gets spent on faculty travel.

What's to discuss?

(Sorry for the honesty! Maybe other departments have more decisions to make?)

Nothing about budgeting around here is clear or transparent.

more opportunities for school monies to be used for faculty research, computers, and other equipment necessary to conduct research.

am fairly new here; it was a big switch, coming from a school in which I was intimately aware of budgetary issues. Now I'm in the dark, mostly. I didn't answer 7 because frankly I have no clue what the allocation is- how it's done, who gets what, whether I get a good share or not..so i can't say it's fair or not.

If nothing is done to improve the system I will not answer this survey next.

This is rather silly, isn't it? We have no control over these budgets and yet some pretend that it is all important that we chat about it. We would be better off doing something else.

It is clear favoritism determines who gets what.

I am in favor of more transparency, more inclusion.

We should focus more on how to secure more financial resources to support faculty activities before worrying about the process of determining how to spend the money.

Our director does the budget work for our office. To my knowledge she does not share this information with anyone in our office except the office manager who is also her secretary.

We only hear phrases like "it is not in the budget" but I do not know what our budget is each year. I did not know I had a right to ask or know. The University appears to have a hierarchical system or at least that is what our director tells us so we believe we must go to her for answers and not ask about certain things that are not within the scope of our position. It is frustrating but we try to work within this system.

I do participate in these discussions, but as a member of the professional faculty, I don't actually get to vote to approve the changes.

Accountability at the department level should become the standard, the budget does not seem to measure accountability to expenditures but this is a huge part of becoming a more lean campus. Everyone should be fully engaged in understanding how their department expenditures affect the whole college.