

REPORT for the Budget & Finance Committee Meeting of 6 Nov. 2025

The Budget & Finance Committee last met on 10-02-2025.

1. Meeting called to order: E. Kondratieff (3:46 pm).

Attending Committee Members (Voting):

Sophia Arjana (PCAL, History, At-Large)
Gordon Baylis (At-Large, OCSE, Psych. Sci.)
Palav Bera (Alt., At-Large, OCSE)
Daniel Boamah (Alt., CHHS, Social Work)
Greg Ellis-Griffith (At-large, CHHS, Public Health)
Said Ghezal (At-Large, CEBS)
Eric Kondratieff, Chair (PCAL, History)
Jim Lindsey (GFCB)
Blair Thomas (PCAL, Poli-Sci)
Rui Zhang (OCSE, Chem. & Biochemistry)

Attending Committee Members (Ex-Officio)

Bud Fischer (Provost, Ex-Officio).
Shane Spiller (GFCB, Faculty Regent)

Absent (Voting and Ex-Officio)

Jakob Barker (SGA)
Todd Seguin (Libraries)

2. Chair Report – (E. Kondratieff absent)

- A. **Approval of Minutes:** 10/03/2025 meeting; approved.
- B. **Kondratieff, Chair Report:** CHHS Dean Tania Basta will visit with the committee on 2/5/2026 (presentation and Q&A)

Lindsey: Suggested we gather questions from committee members to provide Dean Basta so she can tailor her presentation appropriately. All agreed. Chair to edit before passing the questions on (to remove duplication).

(Note from previous meeting: **Seguin** suggested the B&F committee create a document / survey that “we could write a series of maybe 5 to 10 questions and ask all the Deans to answer. And we'd get a little flavor of their responses to compare them, because that was part of the problem. We saw some Deans doing certain things, and others doing other things, and we wondered, how can they do that? Our Dean says they can't...xyz” The committee gave general approval to move forward on this idea).

3. New/Old Business

- A. **Kondratieff:** Given this week's *Herald* article in which Todd Stewart expressed Athletics' need for additional funding to compensate athletes as per the House decision, it seems that B&F should no longer be Stewart's only point-of-contact with the Senate; rather, he should visit the entire Senate. I have made this suggestion to Dan Clark (general assent).
- B. **Spiller:** Stewart has expressed he's willing to do it; Clark should definitely invite him to Senate.
- C. **Lindsey:** Suggested that we also invite **Giana Pellizzon** (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/gianapellizzon/>), **Associate Athletic Director in charge of Student-Athlete Development & NIL**. She will have valuable input on this topic.

(Note: NIL = “name, image, and likeness,” referring to non-professional athletes' rights to earn money via endorsements, sponsorships, and other commercial activities which had been previously restricted by NCAA rules until 2021).

4. Faculty Regent – Shane Spiller

- A. A **Board of Regents meeting agenda** will be coming out on November 7 for the November 14 meeting. We expect to see the fourth-quarter results for last year's budget. We expected to show that the balanced budget actually came in slightly under the projected budget. We will also be looking at the first quarter budget for next year for approval.

Note: BoR Agenda for 11/14/25 meeting posted here: <https://www.wku.edu/regents/2025/committee11-14-25.php>

Note: Included in the agenda is the **external audit by Forvis Mazars LLP** presented to The Finance, Budget & Audit Committee. It is in the BoR agenda as **Action Item FBA-1, “AUDITOR'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025,”** posted at <https://www.wku.edu/regents/2025/fbapacket11-14-25.pdf>.

- B. There will also be consideration of the internal audit by WKU Internal Audit chief Bruce Wiseman (with whom Spiller will be meeting separately on November 7).

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5. Provost – Bud Fischer

- A. Getting ready to put together materials for **FY 27 Budget**. Gathering feedback from colleges on their needs.
- B. Also working on **enrollment estimates** and what the budget may look like if enrollments are flat, up, or down a bit. Projections based on those scenarios will be developed.
- C. For FY 26 there is no need to change anything as far as we can tell.
- D. For the **RAMP review**, **Huron** has been on campus and meeting with the **Budget Review Committee** which consists of faculty and staff senators, Deans, etc. Huron will later present ideas on how to mature the budget.
- E. **Spiller**: Could you please explain for those who are unaware what Huron is and its role in the ramp budget?
- F. **Fischer**: **Huron Consulting Group** helped to develop and establish the first RCM/RAMP budget model. We have brought them back to help us review the budget now and provide recommendations for further maturation of the RAMP model system. Huron originally developed focus groups through the SOF (Strategy, Operations and Finance), Deans, and Office of Research & Creative Activit.
- G. **Baylis**: Questioned why WKU went back to Huron since he feels they had done a horrible job with our RAMP model.
- H. **Fischer**: I was not part of the original process; but the budget is doing some of what it's supposed to do.
- I. **Baylis**: Will the **Budget Review Committee** be looking at **college fees**?
- J. **Fischer**: Has recommended to the Deans to form committees within their colleges to decide on how the new fees should be spent. The fees are supposed to go directly (and only) to student-success initiatives. The committees in the colleges should include faculty, staff, and students.

6. Open Discussion: None

7. Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned @ 4:15 p.m.