



## PLANNING & BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** April 21, 2025

**Time:** 2:15 PM

| Voting Members       | Title   | Present? |
|----------------------|---|----------|
| Raaj Kurapati        | Executive Vice Chancellor and COO                   | Yes      |
| Dr. Ashley Harkrider | Interim Dean - College of Health Professions        | Yes      |
| Dr. Cindy Russell    | VC for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs        | Yes      |
| Dr. Jessica Snowden  | VC for Research                                     | Yes      |
| Dr. Wendy Likes      | Dean - Nursing                                      | Yes      |
| Dr. Nick Verne       | Interim Executive Dean - Medicine                   | Yes      |
| Dr. Reginald Frye    | Dean - Pharmacy                                     | Yes      |
| Keshia Giboni        | Financial Coordinator - CoP, Staff Senate President | Yes      |
| Dr. Tracy McClinton  | Faculty Senate President                            | Yes      |
| Dr. Ken Tilashalski  | Dean - Dentistry                                    | Yes      |
| Dr. Charles Snyder   | VC for Student Success                              | Yes      |
| Non-Voting Members   | Title   | Present? |
| Michael Ebbs         | AVC, Financial Strategy                             | Yes      |
| George Ninan         | AVC, Financial Operations                           | Yes      |
| Melissa Moore        | Associate General Counsel                           | Yes      |
| Benjie Harmon        | AVC Financial Planning and Budget                   | Yes      |

### **Approve Agenda & Minutes from Prior Meetings**

- **AGENDA:** The agenda was reviewed, Mr. Raaj Kurapati called for a motion to accept, which was then made by Dr. Reginald Frye.



- **MINUTES:** Minutes from the March 19, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Mr. Kurapati called for a motion to accept, which was made by Dr. Wendy Likes and seconded by Dr. Charles Snyder.

#### **Welcome new member Dr. Ashley Harkrider**

- Mr. Kurapati introduced and welcomed Dr. Harkrider to the PBC.

#### **Update on Approved State Budget**

- Raaj briefly confirmed the recently approved state budget
  - Capital Maintenance of approximately \$2 million
  - Recommended compensation increases of 2.6%
  - Included, for first time ever, formula funding proposal for UTHSC educational and medical equipment. This is not a huge amount, but it establishes a base, which will be \$950,000.
  - Raaj also informed the group that our work also benefitted the Veterinary School as they were able to also receive some base funding based on the analysis we provided.

#### **Discussion on Executive Orders and our due diligence proactive approach**

- Discussed potential impacts of IDCR rate capping and there is likely to be negotiation and while it will likely not stay at the proposed 15%, we also will likely not stay at 54%. We are expected to have a reduction in IDCR rate, but, we are unable to determine that yet. Possibly a cap somewhere in the median, around 35% is possible.



### **Discussion of Strategic Investment Requests for FY 26**

- Began discussions of requests received and getting feedback from the group. Scheduled additional meetings to finish discussions, rankings and collaboration.

### **Other Discussions**

- Dr. Snowden discussed where we are with new grant acceptances and that we are falling further behind with new award notices and renewal notices. At the time of the meeting, we had only received one new award since January 2025. Historically, we had received notice of approximately twenty new awards by this time.
- Dr. Snowden also mentioned the proposed budget/spending plan includes significant NIH cuts, up to 40%, but thinks that amount will be less.
- Dr. Snowden, Dr. Russell and Raaj initiated discussions around the Research Incentive Policy/Faculty Incentive Policy and that there is a need for a reworking of that policy to also include changes to how IDCR is allocated.

### **Closing Statements**

- Raaj Kurapati ended the meeting at approximately 3:15PM