

## University Faculty Council Finance and Facilities Committee

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### Major Agenda Item for 2005-06 - Talking Points

1. This briefing is for information only. A resolution will be proposed at a subsequent UFC meeting.
2. The proposal is to change the name and role of the UFC Finance and Facilities Committee into a fully-functioning University Budgetary Affairs Committee, to work in close cooperation with the University Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, facilitating lines of communication about fiscal affairs between the University Administration and the UFC.
3. This appears an appropriate time to increase involvement of the UFC in monitoring the fiscal affairs of the university:
  - The state legislature continues to withdraw from its traditional commitment to funding higher education in Indiana;
  - Overhead charges – whether in the form of campus assessments or the university tax – have placed an increasing burden on academic units on all campuses;
  - Faculty colleagues increasingly are demanding accountability for these funds, which would otherwise be employed in the units in fulfillment of their academic missions;
4. We anticipate this will include budget conferences with the university vice presidents (and perhaps the campus chancellors) in much the same format, and spirit of collegiality, as currently conducted on the IU-Bloomington campus. In this connection, the University BAC would function as an effective conduit of financial information between the council and the university administration.
5. The timetable for implementation would be rapid: we would anticipate conducting Spring semester 2006 budget conferences during the critical budget formulation months of February and March.
6. The committee would be empowered by this body to report findings and recommendations to the university administration and the UFC which, in its judgment, are critical to continuing to meet the academic mission of the university, and to invest in critical capacity-building for its future.