

“I want to make a comment about our budget process, which is something that is ongoing as far as the Board of Regents, and as far as Western, is concerned.

A vibrant university is a living and breathing entity. It is composed of innumerable moving parts, all with one purpose: to provide an education for its students in order to equip them to do well.

WKU is just such an institution. It is not stagnant. It continues to move to greater heights.

One of the important functions of such a university is to prepare and implement an annual budget. We regularly review this process.

WKU's budgeting process is more transparent and engages more stakeholders from across our campus than ever before. The budget review process is discussed in open forums such as staff senate, Faculty Senate and Board of Regents meeting. These are accessible venues for any member of the public or media. Board of Regents budget documents are made available prior to each meeting on the Board of Regents' website and remain posted indefinitely.

Our budget development is a decentralized process involving input from not only the university senior leaders, but also representatives of the Faculty and Staff Senate and the Student Government Association.

Voluntary budget workshops are made available to all Board of Regents members prior to approval of an operating budget in order to educate and inform the Board of Regents about the budget before it comes before the board.

The University has a budget executive committee made up of faculty, staff and student representatives who meet weekly to review budget documents and provide input into university expenditures.

All open records requests are promptly responded to in a thorough and orderly fashion.

The Office of Media Relations provides timely information to answer inquiries regarding the budget and has provided numerous opportunities for the media to meet with President Caboni, other university administrators and members of the Budget and Finance Committee, who sit over here. All this for the purpose of asking such questions as they care to.

WKU's budget review process is robust and transparent. More information is being shared with regents, faculty, staff and the public than ever before. During President Caboni's tenure, initiatives have been implemented which are designed to increase transparency and engagement.

The financial landscape of higher education is challenging. Despite this, we have achieved positive outcomes such as increased retention, increased graduation rates and increased net tuition revenue. WKU's metrics tell the story.

Our budget is not prepared in a vacuum. Our success is not achieved by accident. President Caboni and scores of dedicated professionals, such as Susan (Howarth) and her team, dedicate considerable time to review budgets and ensure fiscal responsibility.

Our budget development is a decentralized process with input from across the entire campus. It is an open and transparent process with full and complete disclosure.

With those comments, I call on Regent Broady for the finance and budget report.”