

Budget and Finance Related Questions from the Faculty Financial Oversight Committee

PIN Positions

1. PIN Requests – What is the decision-making process at the cabinet level for PIN line requests, especially those for faculty PIN lines? What are the criteria for those decisions?

2. PIN Vacancies -- How many PIN position vacancies and what total annual funds from those have we had in each of the last seven years?

3. Vacant PIN position funds – What happens to the money from vacant PIN position, both the state-provided funds and SU-provided funds (we were previously told the state funds approximately 60-65% of PIN position cost and SU must make up the rest)? What is the decision-making process and what are the criteria for decisions? What is funded with these resources? Please provide a list.

-- For instance, was the “Strategic Innovation Fund” funded with vacant PIN funds?

4. The President’s office quickly added 3 new PIN positions within the past year (1 “senior advisor” and 2 “deputy Chiefs of staff”). How did that come about? What was the process for those? Where were the funds drawn from? Were other unfilled PIN lines reassigned to the President’s office, and if so, which? Were other filled PIN lines reassigned to the President’s office and if so, which?

5. When will we have a 2024 budget report? In the “PIN line growth” section of the new report, will a distinction be made between New PIN positions where new PIN lines have been added vs. Replacement PIN positions, and also where existing PIN lines have been reallocated?

Ward Museum Closure / Separation savings?

6. How much money will SU save (gain) by separating itself from the Ward Museum and closing the museum facility on Schumaker Pond? Where was that on the SU budget audit? What will any funds saved be used for? And what is the decision-making process and what are the criteria for those decisions?

Department Administrative Positions --

7. Are we competitive in salary and benefits for departmental administrative positions (Admin. II, Academic Program Specialist, Program Management Specialist, etc.)? We may not be, because departments are experiencing significant turnover in administrative positions, which creates some difficulties and chaos. How much turnover has there been in these positions? Can we secure resources to make them more competitive and reduce turnover?

Staffing Levels and Resources

8. Where have the increased Academic Affairs positions over the past decade been added, what specific positions? The 2023 SU Budget report (pg. 35) shows that SU added 71 Academic Affairs positions from 2013 to 2022/23 (jumping from 491 to 562), but the number of faculty PIN positions remained nearly unchanged, up only 6 (from 397 to 403). So where are those new Academic Affairs PIN lines going?

9. Why have Exempt (salaried) PIN lines increased 31% over the past decade (2013-2022/23), while Faculty and Non-Exempt (hourly) PIN lines have not? What are those new Exempt positions that have been added (list please). The SU 2023 SU budget report (page 35) indicates that we added 76 Exempt PINs, 0 Non-Exempt PINs, and 6 Faculty Pins (increase of 1.5%).