The AS&E Budget and University Priorities Committee met seven times during the Fall 2012 semester and five times during the Spring 2012 semester. The committee’s goals were to play an active role in the various assessment and strategic planning exercises taking place during the year, to learn about relevant issues at an early stage of decision making and to provide early feedback that could influence decisions on relevant issues.

The committee chair and full committee held meetings with Engineering Dean Linda Abriola, A&S Dean Joanne Berger-Sweeney and A&S Dean of Academic Affairs Jim Glaser. Executive Administrative Dean Leah Rosovsky (A&S), Executive Associate Dean Scott Sahagian (Engineering) and the new A&S Executive Administrative Dean Kathryn Link were invaluable members of the committee. Much of the week-to-week work of providing information to the committee and conveying the committee’s recommendations falls to the executive deans and they were generous with their time and attention. The committee wishes to thank each of these administrators for their support and to make a special acknowledgement of the six years of dedicated service provided by Dean Leah Rosovsky.

There were so many assessment and strategic planning activities taking place during the year that they came to dominate committee discussions. The committee devoted one or more full meetings to providing feedback on each of the NEASC Accreditation Self Study, the strategic goals for A&S, the strategic goals for Engineering, the AS&E proposals for the university’s 5-Year Capital Plan, the Tufts Innovation Institute proposal, and the university’s Prelude to the Strategic Plan. These all involved complex bundles of ongoing issues that defy simple summary. The committee will continue to work on these issues and provide specific recommendations over the next academic year.

The committee began three initiatives that proved to be promising enough to warrant continuation. The first was the formation of a subcommittee on faculty salaries that began working with Dean Glaser on the general procedures of salary determination and the specifics of the traditional AAUP-Administration salary regression. The second was holding two joint meetings with the Campus Planning and Development Committee to provide feedback on a set of capital project possibilities. The third was a school-level analysis of long-term revenue and cost trends.

Although the committee does not have specific conclusions or recommendations to report at this time, we believe that it is better engaged with administrative decision makers and better positioned to play a role in decisions that will be made over the next year.

On behalf of the committee,

David Garman  (Committee Chair for 2012 – 2013)