

“Cracking the Nut,” Part 6

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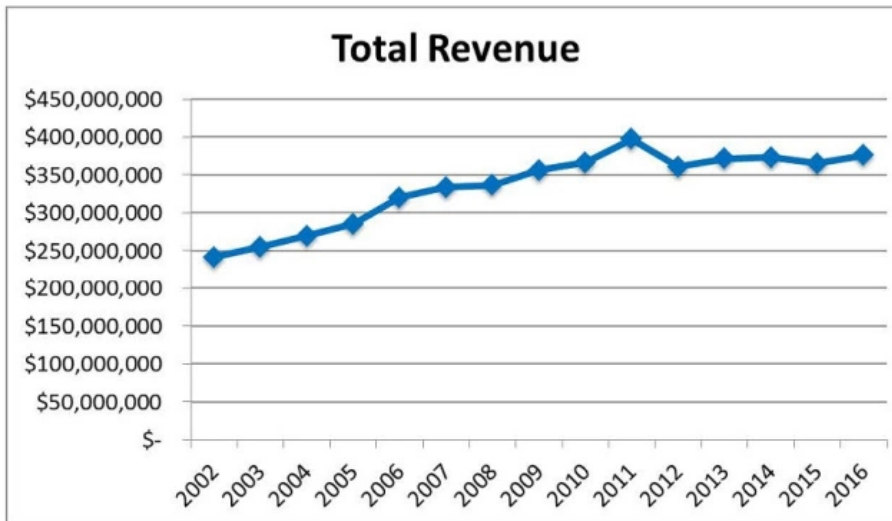
January 17, 2017



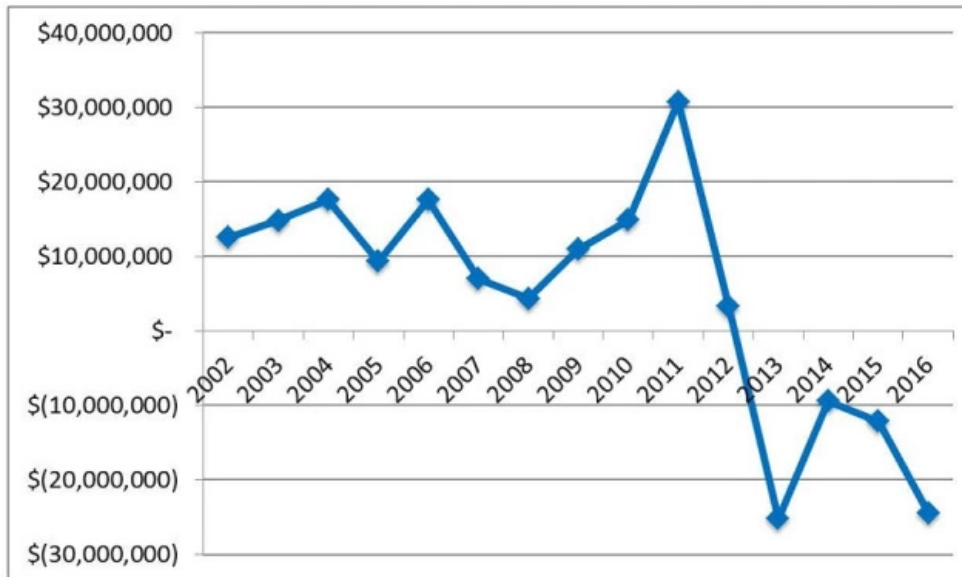
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What follows are some of the key points made in Rudy’s Fichtenbaum’s presentation on the university’s budget issues at our Fall chapter meeting.

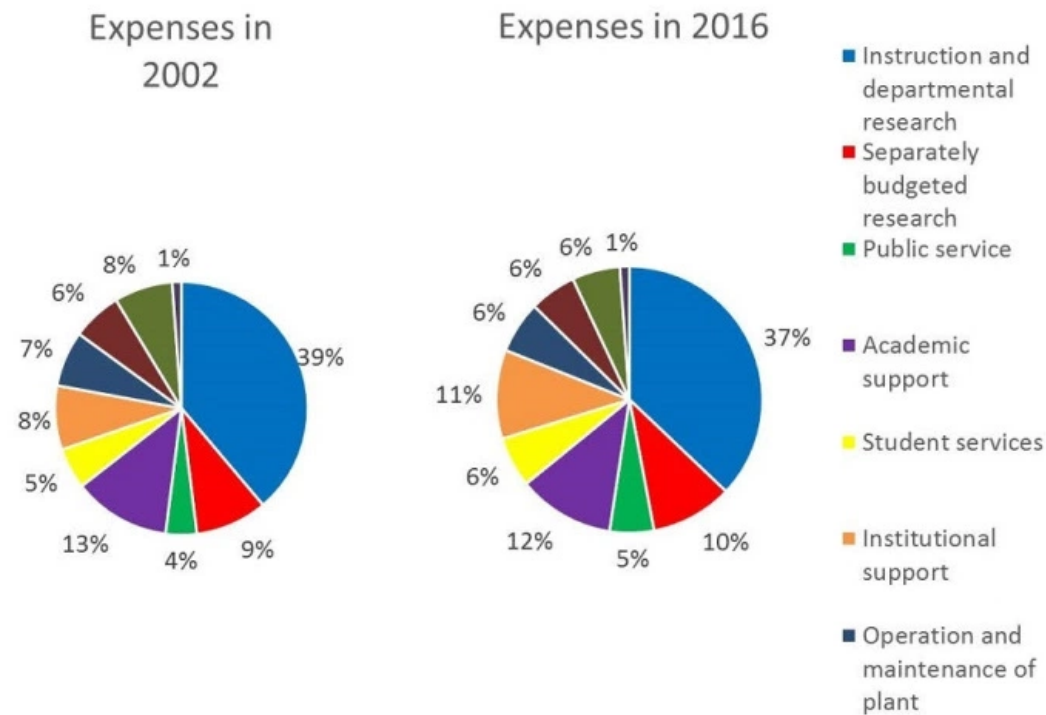
1. The university does not have a revenue problem. After a brief spike in revenue immediately following the recession and attributable to the stimulus spending and students’ completing their degrees before the shift to a semester calendar, our revenues have been relatively steady and, putting aside the one spike, higher than they have ever been previously.



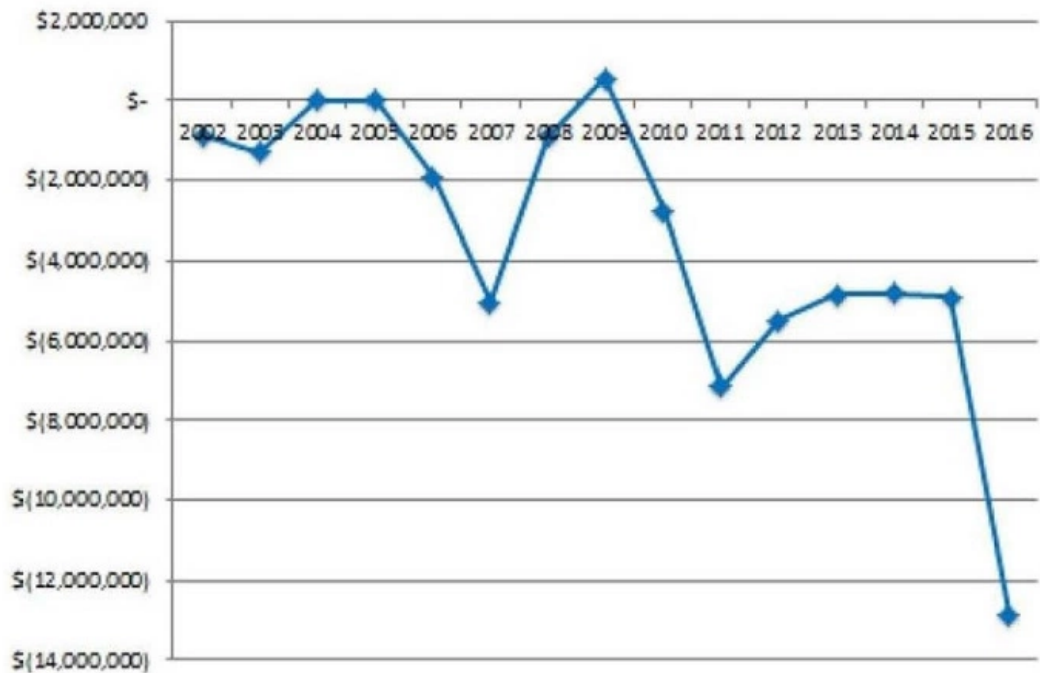
2. But, very clearly, the university has been overspending—has a “spending problem.” The following chart shows the university’s cash flow, its spending measured against its revenues, over the last fifteen years. It is important to note that for a public university to have negative cash flow is a relatively rare occurrence, but for a university to have successive years of negative cash flow is almost unheard of.



3. The overspending has not been on instruction. The following pie charts show that from 2002 to 2016, spending on instruction has declined from 39% to 37% of the total budget. That two-percent decrease may seem small, but it amounts to \$52.3 million, or an average of \$3.5 million per year, that has been shifted from instruction to other “priorities.” Worse, the second chart shows that the bulk of this shift in allocations away from instruction has actually occurred over the last six years. (And let me remind everyone that over the first three of those six years, BUFMs received no salary increases.)



Monies Shifted Away from Instruction



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Author: martinkich

I am a Professor of English at Wright State University's Lake Campus, where I have been a faculty member for more than 25 years. I have now served multiple terms as the President of the WSU chapter of AAUP, which now includes all full-time instructional faculty, and as the Vice-President of the Ohio Conference of AAUP. I have also served several terms as an at-large member of the Executive Committee of AAUP's Collective Bargaining Congress. In addition to serving as co-editor of the Academe blog, I am also a member of the editorial board of Academe and have been a guest editor for an issue of the magazine on collective bargaining strategies. As co-chair of the Ohio Conference's Communication Committee, I began to do much more overtly political writing during the campaign to repeal Ohio's Senate Bill 5, which would have eliminated the right of faculty to be unionized. I have sustained that activism, and at the risk of stating the obvious, I have very much enjoyed contributing to the Academe Blog and to our chapter blog. I also maintain several other blogs to which I have re-posted, by topic, my posts to the Academe blog, as well as some other items. [View all posts by martinkich](#)

