



*Santa Monica Community College District*

## Budget Planning Subcommittee of the District Planning and Advisory Council (DPAC)

### MEETING MINUTES – March 5, 2025

A Meeting of the Budget Planning Subcommittee will be held Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 2:00 pm at Santa Monica College’s Student Services Center (SSC 396), 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, California. The public may join the meeting via zoom with the following link: <https://smc-edu.zoom.us/j/85009325229>

**I. Call to Order** 2:05 pm

**Members:**

- Mitch Heskel, District Representative
- Chris Bonvenuto, District Representative, Co-Chair
- Teresita Rodriguez, District Representative
- Tracie Hunter, District Representative - (Remote-Just Cause Exemption)
- Vicenta Arrizon, Academic Senate Representative
- Jamar London, Academic Senate Representative
- Matt Hotsinpillier, FA Representative, Co-Chair
- Peter Morse, Faculty Association Representative
- Martha Romano, CSEA Representative
- Kennisha Green, CSEA Rep (Absent)
- Dagmar Gorman, CSEA Representative
- Cindy Ordaz, CSEA Representative
- David Duncan, Associated Student Representative
- Jordan Davis, Associated Student Representative

Interested Parties in attendance: 64 Guests - remote

**II. Public Comments**

**III. Approval of Minutes:** February 19, 2025

**IV. Reports/Discussion**

1. Continued discussion on Developing Guiding Principles to inform budgetary balancing strategies and decisions for 2025-2026. The Guiding Principles were finalized as follows;

Make Budgetary Reductions with Minimal Direct Impact on Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize budget decisions that support student success, retention, and equitable access to education.</li> <li>• Ensure budget reductions do not disproportionately impact student learning, success, or equity.</li> </ul>
Preserve Quality Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain quality, innovation, and excellence in instructional and support services.</li> <li>• Seek student input and feedback.</li> </ul>
Transparency, Open Communication, and Accountability in Budget Reduction Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure timely, reasonable, and inclusive information-sharing with all constituencies related to budget reduction.</li> <li>• Reduce reliance on one-time funds or temporary solutions.</li> <li>• Prioritize long-term fiscal stability.</li> </ul>
Strategic Enrollment Growth and the Student-Centered Funding Formula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure budget reductions do not negatively impact metrics within the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF).</li> <li>• Prioritize funding for instructional programs, student services, support for underserved student populations and roles that contribute to student success, enrollment and retention.</li> </ul>
Workforce Planning & Hiring Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere to budget constraints for all hiring, vacancy fills, and reassigned time.</li> <li>• Review overtime and conference/travel expenses for efficiency and necessity.</li> <li>• Restructure staffing strategically and equitably, ensuring minimal disruption to operations.</li> </ul>
Minimize Layoffs While Supporting Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize retention of employees while improving efficiency.</li> <li>• Support retention, training and professional development of faculty, classified staff, managers, and student employees to maintain institutional knowledge, service quality and potential opportunities for reassignment.</li> <li>• Consider alternative funding sources to prevent job losses.</li> <li>• Ensure equity, privacy, and fair notification in workforce reductions, considering racial/ethnic impact and collective bargaining agreements.</li> </ul>
Shared Responsibility & Equitable Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget reductions should be distributed equitably across faculty, classified staff, and management.</li> <li>• Continue to engage all constituency groups through participatory governance to mitigate disproportionate impacts.</li> </ul>

**The Budget Committee moves to approve the amended Guiding Principles for Reductions.**

Motion: Cindy Ordaz Second: Jamar London AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

Motion was passed.

**The Budget Committee moves to forward the Guiding Principles for Reductions to DPAC for consideration and further recommendation to the Superintendent/President.**

Motion: Teresita Rodriguez Second: Jamar London AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

Motion was passed.

2. Fiscal Services Update

Chris Bonvenuto gave a brief budget update on the State financial status. He shared the status of some key economic indicators, such as a decline in January's cash receipts, the growth of the unemployment rate, and a decrease in building and construction permits of 10.6% from the prior year. The key economic indicators are signaling that the State financial situation may not be as strong as was previously indicated.

An update was also given on the California Community College Chancellors' Office release of the P1, which is the first funding update colleges receive from the CCCC since the beginning of the fiscal year. The P1 is a projected a ~1.5% to 7.2% deficit factor, for Santa Monica College this would mean a possible one-time reduction in current year revenue \$2.5 million to \$12 million.

Vicenta Arrizon shared the following link with the Committee:

<https://www.csudh.edu/budget-plan-admin/budget-presentations/>

The CSU California State University system is facing budget cuts of 8%.

**V. Adjournment: 3:50 pm**

**For all documents**, visit [www.smc.edu/administration/governance/district-planning-policies/budget-planning-subcommittee.php](http://www.smc.edu/administration/governance/district-planning-policies/budget-planning-subcommittee.php)

**Future Budget Planning Committee Meetings:** Meetings will be on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, except as noted, and will begin at 2:00 pm.