



Santa Monica Community College District

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

MEETING MINUTES – May 20, 2026

A Meeting of the Budget Planning Subcommittee will be held Wednesday, May 20, 2026 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 2:13 pm

#### Members:

- Mitch Heskel, District Representative
- Chris Bonvenuto, District Representative, Co-Chair
- Tania Acosta, District Representative
- Tracie Hunter, District Representative
- Vicenta Arrizon, Academic Senate Representative
- Elisa Meyer, Academic Senate Representative
- Matt Hotsinpillier, FA Representative, Co-Chair
- Peter Morse, Faculty Association Representative
- Martha Romano, CSEA Rep (Absent)
- Kennisha Green, CSEA Rep (Absent)
- Dagmar Gorman, CSEA Representative
- Cindy Ordaz, CSEA Representative
- Emilia Albegova, Associated Student Rep (Absent)
- Paula Hernandez, Associated Student Rep (Absent)
- Leila Kashani, Associated Student Rep (Absent)
- Sheng Wen Loh, Associated Student Rep (Absent)

Interested Parties in attendance: 79 Guests - zoom

### II. Public Comments

- III. **Approval of Minutes:** May 6, 2026 Motion: Dagmar Gorman Seconded: Elisa Meyer  
Minutes were approved unanimously

### IV. Reports/Discussion

1. District Funding at the State Level Update – Don Girard, Senior Director, Government Relations and Institutional Communications and David Neben, Partner, Capitol Advisors Group, LLC.

#### Key Points/Topics Discussed

- David Neben presented an overview of the major proposals in the Governor's May Revision that impact community colleges.
- SMC's advocacy efforts to increase total funding for the Student Support Block Grant to \$250 million in 2026–27 were discussed. In addition, the May Revision trailer bill includes revised language providing greater flexibility in the use of funds. The updated language states: *"The funds appropriated pursuant to this section may be expended for any purpose..."*
- The committee discussed the Proposition 98 settle-up for 2025–26, which decreased from \$5.6 billion in the Governor's January proposal to \$3.9 billion in the May Revision.
- A discussion was held regarding metrics, specifically that transfer metrics do not fully count students enrolled during the summer term.
- Chris Bonvenuto informed the committee that preliminary calculations of the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF), based on the May Revision, tentatively indicate that the district will transition from Hold Harmless funding to SCFF funding in 2026–27. As a result, the committee's next area of focus will be developing a stronger understanding of how growth funding operates.
- Chris Bonvenuto reminded the committee that additional changes are expected between now and the Tentative Budget.

### V. Adjournment: 3:10 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.