



*Santa Monica Community College District*  
**Budget Planning Subcommittee of the District  
Planning and Advisory Council (DPAC)**  
**MEETING MINUTES – May 6, 2026**

A Meeting of the Budget Planning Subcommittee will be held Wednesday, May 6, 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 2:06 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 Representative
- Sheng Wen Loh, Associated Student Rep (Absent)

Interested Parties in attendance: Denise Kinsella, Catherine Weir, Jose Hernandez, Llanet Martin, Vivian Chu, Jonathan Ng, Scott Silverman, Ming-Yea Wei, Paul Trautwein, Victor Vasquez, Stacy Neal, Erik Senko, Elaine Roque

**II. Public Comments Erik Senko**

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

**April 1, 2026** Motion: Dagmar Gorman Seconded: Elisa Meyer Abstention: Mitch Heskel  
Minutes were approved

**April 29, 2026** Motion: Dagmar Gorman Seconded: Elisa Meyer Abstention: Tracie Hunter  
Minutes were approved

**IV. Reports/Discussion**

1. Promise Program by Dr. Kiersten Elliott, Dean, Community and Academic Relations and Joshua Casillas, Student Onboarding Specialist

Key Points

- Promise Program provides up to 2 years of free tuition, Priority Enrollment, SMC Book Voucher, Free Transportation for any First Time, Straight out of High School Students
- SMC Promise Program in Fall 2021 awarded 2,372 in Fall 2025 awarded 3,177. The program has steady increase in the number of students, year over year due to the staff outreach and education efforts.
- Kiersten Elliott will reach out to Maral Hyeler regarding CCAP partnership high schools.

2. Non Resident Enrollment Update – Press Nicolov, Dean, International Education

Key Points

- The 2026-2030 International Enrollment Strategy Plan was shared. It is a framework for Sustainable, Evidence-Based Recruitment Investment with 3 parts: Part 1-Market Demand Criteria, Part 2 - External Risk Factors, Part 3 - Current & Emerging Markets
- The department evaluates every market against six demand side-criteria. Risk factors tell us which markets can realistically deliver students to SMC under current conditions, results in what countries SMC should invest recruitment resources.
- International students expressed interest in a Designated Area to make them feel at home, club house, to be in community.

3. Financial Aid Update – Tracie Hunter, Associate Dean, Financial Aid/Scholarships

Key Points

- Tracie shared recent updates, new development and strategies to increase Pell Grants, gave an overview on Financial Aid Process to increase applications.
- Additional potential fraud reviews at FAFSA application level, monthly fraud detection is applied
- Pell Grants award numbers have increased consecutively over last four years from \$26,279,884 in 2022-2023 to total amount \$33,754,536, count-7926 in 2025-2026.
- Tracie Hunter will attend a future Chairs Meetings, will be scheduled during Fall Flex Day - hyflex recorded session and develop a one-page informational flyer to share with the campus

4. Slingshot Update – Final Data Spring 2026 Semester by Mitch Heskell, Dean, Education Enterprise

Key Points

- Slingshot's first cohort was for Chemistry, full-blown implementation Fall 2025
- Budgeted need of \$1.3 million over 5 years to break even
- **No student is charged until the materials are picked up**
- Results - sales are doing well, but the margins are low, some staff is retiring
- Book vouchers from Fall 2024 \$222k to Fall 2025 \$865k - Quadrupled
- Challenges - Faculty need to turn in their print jobs with enough time for Reprographics to print materials-no last minute projects will be printed. Lead time is very important
- SMC Go app, bookstore needs a designated ICON on the app
- Opportunities - improve messaging to students, work to direct Pell grants -requires developing student accounts in Weblsis
- Interaction Design Program - work with program and business professor - merchandising

**V. Adjournment:** 4:05 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.