

Draft



SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Senate Chambers, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Ron Root (Co-Chair).

Members present: Russ Bowden, Barbara Croteau (Co-Chair), Ted Crowell, Bob Flores, Peg Goebel, Micca Gray, Michael Ludder, Maryanne Michaels, Cole Perry, Jamey Ransford, Ty Ronquillo, Ron Root, Ed Sikes, Deborah Sweitzer, Sandi Tassano.

Members absent: Andrew Dolcini.

Also present: Kathleen Bradbury, Eileen Cichocki, Kat Lewis, Susan St. Clair, Wende Wahl.

1. Approval of Minutes—March 11, 2003

The minutes from the committee's March 11, 2003 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Report on *March in March*

Bob Flores and Ty Ronquillo reported to the committee regarding the *March in March* rally held in Sacramento. Bob said about 100 people from Santa Rosa Junior College attended the event and others supported the effort by creating posters that the participants used. Ty said there were 10,000 to 15,000 people attending the rally. Bob observed the effectiveness of the drum corps participating in the rally. Ty was able to speak to Senator Pacheco and reviewed some of the talking points with him. He also said it is important to let students know who their allies are since the crowd vocally expressed disapproval by booing some of allied legislators off the stage. Ron Root congratulated the Associated Students for the effort, expressing his appreciation of the leadership in this effort.

Bob Flores said support/thank you notes have been sent to legislators including Pat Wiggins, Joe Nation, Wes Chesbro, Jack Scott, and Bob Pacheco. Ron Root encouraged BAC to send appreciation email to these legislators.

Micca Gray requested that the committee consider agenda item no. 5 at this point.

5. Report on Final FY 2002/03 Budget Cuts

Ron Root reviewed a handout from the Community College League of California that outlined versions of the state budget: as budgeted; incorporating the governor's revisions; including the working group's revisions; and as enacted by the legislature and signed by the governor. Ron pointed out that originally the general apportionment was slated for a 3.66% reduction and it was restored, but because the property tax backfill will not be restored, the net effect is a 1.9% reduction in apportionment. Ron said the total cuts—decreases to the budget—amount to 3.3% for the CC system, 1.7% for the CSU system; and 1.5% for the UC system.

Ron Root then distributed a box chart showing the effects on SRJC's budget. He said that with the \$5.65 million budget problems, and the \$3.76 million revenue increases and expenditure reductions, the net 02/03 projected budget deficit is \$1.89 million. Regarding next year's budget, Ron said after mid-May the district will have better state budget numbers on which to base its 03/04 budget. As it stands, the district will face the challenge of a 10% reduction in FTEF (full-time equivalent faculty) without losing enrollment. This will be even more challenging given the unknown factor of how the student fee increase will effect enrollment.

There was a discussion about the 75/25 faculty ratio and Ron Root said the district is requesting waiver of the 3 net new positions. Deborah Sweitzer asked for clarification and determined that it involves the 3 new positions, but the hiring process will continue for the 11 replacement positions.

When Russ Bowden asked about the adjunct health benefit cost projection being the same figure as in the prior projected budget version, Ron Root and Eileen Cichocki replied that they would review the basis for the figure and report back to the committee.

During a discussion regarding enrollment cap, Deborah Sweitzer said that SRJC's cap will be reduced by 5.7% next year and asked how that will affect the general apportionment. Ron Root replied that although there will be a 5.7% reduction in the enrollment cap, there is 3% growth built in so the net result could be a 2.7% decline in enrollment with no more fiscal harm.

3. Position Statement

The committee agreed that when the drafted position statement is complete, it should move through SRJC's committee system and then come before the Board of Trustees, making it an official document of the district. Deborah suggested that, because it will be used to communicate with legislative components, the finished document should be signed by representatives from the constituent groups. Maryanne Michaels pointed out that because of the academic calendar, the committee will need to get the position statement to IPC quickly in order to move the document through the college's committee system.

During a discussion about the need for legislative advocacy, Bob Flores said the position paper is a good start in a direction that focuses on the campus as a whole. He explained that the Associated Students has had a legislative committee for several years but the focus is from the students' point of view. Barbara Croteau said the college needs to reach legislators with logical, thought-provoking information to make them aware of the effects and harm to education resulting from budget cuts and other decisions. Deborah Sweitzer said a lobbyist can be more effective than representatives from

SRJC in establishing relationships and being very knowledgeable about the government process. Bob Flores said he would like to give an SRJC advocacy packet to legislators when CCLC teams go to Sacramento in April and May.

Barbara Croteau suggested that the committee review the four main items listed in the position paper and get consensus on those items before moving on to the talking points. The committee reached consensus on the first two items: opposing disproportional cuts to the CCC system, and opposing the reduction of the CCC system's proportionate share of Proposition 98 funds. The committee agreed that the other two points need more discussion and decided to convene a subcommittee (Bob Flores, Barbara Croteau, Maryanne Michaels, Deborah Sweitzer and Ed Sikes) to finalize the draft for distribution to BAC members before the next BAC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 11, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., in the Senate Chambers.