

Santa Rosa Junior College

Budget Advisory Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Race Conference Room 4061

The meeting was called to order by Doug Roberts (Co-Chair).

Members present: Kerry Campbell-Price, Barbara Croteau, Ted Crowell, Jeanne Fadelli, Ken Fiori, Brenda Flyswithawks, Jeremy Gould, Kate Jolley, Doug Kuula, Maryanne Michaels, Brian Phifer, Doug Roberts, Warren Ruud, Deborah Sweitzer

Also present: Linda Close, Scott Lorbeer, Susan St. Clair

1. Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the April 1, 2008 meeting minutes, as submitted.

2. P-2 Enrollment Figures

Doug Roberts reported a 1.93% increase in FTES, including credit and non-credit, over what was reported last year. A portion is restoration to make up for previously lost FTES, and a portion is growth. Current FTES totals 20,668.

Ken Fiori added that credit FTES grew by 3.5%, but non-credit FTES shrunk. There was a discussion about the challenge to replace non-credit instructors, who are generally an older demographic and have a large number of retirements. Because of the configuration of non-credit courses, Kerry Campbell-Price said it is possible that an instructor is carrying as many as six or seven sections which can make replacement a real challenge.

3. State Budget Update

Doug Roberts said it had been another dismal month for sales tax revenue, adding the latest report indicates sales tax revenue is about \$1 billion short. SRJC is participating in a letter writing campaign to support an Assembly bill to back-fill loss of property tax revenue.

During a discussion about rumors coming out of Sacramento and the shortage of substantiated information, Deborah Sweitzer said she had heard a rumor about a COLA adjustment. It was generally agreed that more information should come from the May Revise.

4. Budget Assumptions

A handout was distributed outlining the 2008/09 Tentative Budget assumptions.

Major revenue assumptions: The District's 2008/09 budget is based on growth from 2007/08, with budget revenue derived from 20,668 FTES. 2008/09 enrollment growth is capped at 1% at the State level. There will be no State General COLA. Deficit funding of \$1.46 million this year, and unless otherwise indicated, the system will experience deficit funding similar to this amount for 2008/09, unless lost property tax revenue is back-filled. \$1.84 million will be rolled into the base budget as a result of 2007/08 enrollment growth, with about 1% of this being restoration.

Major expenditure assumptions: No COLA has been budgeted. \$557,000 has been budgeted for step/column increases. An unemployment insurance premium increase of \$140,000 has been set aside, and increases in both health and dental premiums are yet to be determined. Various operating expenses, such as utilities, postage and insurance, have been increased by \$500,000. Instruction has been budgeted for a .5% FTEF expansion in the class schedule. \$185,000 has been budgeted for new positions filled this year but budgeted only for the portion of time actually worked this year—the \$185,000 constitutes the additional amount needed for an entire year.

5. Next BAC Meeting

After a brief discussion regarding the timing of budget information coming from the State, the committee agreed to cancel its May 9, 2008 meeting. The next meeting will be conducted on May 22, 2008.

When Brian Phifer asked whether any word will go out to the campus community after the May Revise, but before faculty leave for the summer, Doug Roberts replied that he thought that Dr. Agrella intended to conduct a budget forum as a means to disseminate new budget information.

Other Business

There was a discussion regarding shadow sections where particular enrollment milestones are established, after which determinations are made to assess whether sections that have been held in the schedule, should be opened for enrollment. Doug Roberts said more should be known after the May Revise, but the District will look at both financial indications, as well as early enrollment figures. Barbara Croteau suggested late-start sections as shadow sections which would allow financial assessment and student flexibility. When Kerry Campbell-Price expressed hope that during/after priority registration the enrollments could be assessed and shadow sections opened in June before regular registration, Barbara Croteau responded that priority registration does not yield enough enrollment information to make these early assessments on enrollment.

Barbara Croteau asked about 2007/08 cost savings, so far. Kate Jolley replied that while there are not concrete numbers at this point, the District will know more as it reaches the end of the fiscal year and can see the results of anticipated *reductions* in "spend-downs."

Jeanne Fadelli introduced Scott Lorbeer, the new research analyst for the Institutional Research Department.

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, at 2:30 p.m., in Race Conference Room 4061.