



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

November 25, 2008

The meeting of the Palomar College Budget Committee scheduled for November 25, 2008, was held in RS-5. Dr. Bonnie Dowd called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

Roll Call

Budget Committee Members Present: Brannick, Claypool, Cuaron, Dimmick, Dowd, Duran, Lienhart, McCluskey, Madrigal, Sivert, Tortarolo

Members Absent: Cerda, Hishmeh, Kovrig, Szames, Towfiq, and Von Son

Guests: Brent Gowen, Brandi Taveuveu & Mark Vernoy

- I. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of October 28, 2008, and November 11, 2008, were approved as corrected (MSC: Lienhart/Duran) and will be posted on the Palomar webpage as follows: <http://www.palomar.edu/committees.htm>
- II. Action:** None
- III. Budget**
 - a. Status Update on FY 2008-09 Budget Information**

Bonnie distributed several handouts that were distributed at the November 18th SPC meeting related to possible impacts to the current year's budget given the state's current fiscal situation. The handouts included possible scenarios related to mid-year cuts; and emails from CCLC and Erik Skinner at the Chancellor's Office regarding the latest information on the budget status. The LAO currently projects a two-year state deficit between \$27 billion and \$28 billion if no corrective action is taken. Bonnie reported that there are many unknowns at this point as to what the impact will be to community colleges. She also reported that a special state legislative session has been scheduled for Sunday, November 23rd, to address the issue, but if nothing comes out of the session, the state's budget crisis will carry over to the new legislative session that begins on December 1st. Bonnie will keep the Budget Committee apprised of any substantive information received with regard to the state budget situation.

Regarding a discussion on growth funding and the prospect of unfunded growth, Dr. Brent Gowen questioned whether the college wants to continue to increase student enrollment if budget constraints prohibit hiring new faculty. Berta Cuaron was of the opinion that increased FTES is positive for the college because although there may be some unfunded growth, greater FTES will increase the funding received for categorical programs. Bonnie concurred adding that Palomar will be eligible to receive an

additional \$1 million in its annual apportionment when the college reaches 20,000 FTES. Looking forward, the additional apportionment will be of tremendous benefit in assisting with increasing annual operational costs. Shannon raised concerns about how the \$1 million should be spent and would like to have discussions when the additional apportionment is received.

IV. Discussion/Information:

a. Fiscal Plan Update

Discussion ensued about updating the last fiscal plan, which was completed in April 2005. There was also discussion about handouts previously provided to the Budget Committee identified as mid-year and final report as compared to the Two-Year Plan. In addition, there was discussion about how vacancies are handled with regard to the current hiring freeze. Shannon Lienhart expressed her opinion that the Budget Committee should play an active role in deciding what positions are replaced and expressed concern that an administrative position was being replaced at a time when there is a hiring freeze and a decision was made to not hire full-time faculty positions for next year. Discussion continued.

Due to the lateness of the hour, a motion was unanimously approved to extend the meeting ten minutes (MSC: Brannick/Gowen) so discussion could continue before adjourning.

Shannon also stated that she would like to see more transparency on academic technology purchases. She wants to know who is making purchasing decisions and feels that the Budget Committee should review academic technology requests prior to purchases being made.

Shannon also expressed her opinion that the Budget Committee does not have conversations about budget priorities but rather is only provided information after expenditures have been made.

Brent thought it would be a good idea to review and discuss the role of the Budget Committee at the next meeting of December 9th, and continue the discussion regarding vacant positions and technology purchases at that time.

VI. Other

The meeting adjourned at 3:32