

# Budget Committee Meeting

January 24, 2013, 2:30 pm  
Minutes

## Present:

Ken Takeda	VPAS, Chair
Bob Sprague	VPAA
Shalamon Duke	VPSS, Acting
Adrienne Foster	Academic Senate
Ashanti Lyles	AFT Classified
Dionne Morrissette	AFT Classified
Olga Shewfelt	AFT Faculty
Abel Rodriguez	SEIU 721
Casey Hunter	Teamsters
Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh	Guest, President
Rebecca Tillberg	Planning Committee Liaison
Fran Leonard	Guest, College Council
Steve Aggers	Guest, Athletic Department
Abraha Bahta	Guest, Chair of Science Department
Helen Lin	Resource, Academic Services
Karina Weatherly	Resource, Admin Services
Hansel Tsai	Resource, Admin Services
Maureen O'Brien	Resource, Admin Services

1. **Call to Order/Approval of Agenda.** The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 2:43PM. The chair motioned for a change to the agenda: items 4d, 4e, and 4f to be moved to immediately after the approval of the minutes to accommodate guests. The motion passed by consensus. Adrienne Foster questioned the propriety of items 4d and 4e. She expressed the thought that these items presented in the Budget Committee were “out of process” and should be part of the college’s resource allocation prioritization process.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the November 29, 2012 meeting were approved by consensus.
3. **Old Business:** none.
4. **New Business:**

**Item 4f.** The Chair spoke to the background of item 4f first, “Disposition of other 2012-13 Budget cuts.” One year ago the College was required to cut 6% from the expenditure anticipated for 2011-12 in order to prepare for reduced revenue in 2012-13. Cutting Athletic programs was a priority across the District and the Athletic Director agreed to defund Men’s Basketball. The next source of cuts was discretionary spending: student work, overtime, sub & relief, supplies, equipment. As several previous years had seen cuts in discretionary spending, there were not a lot of funds available. In this part of the process, the Science Department was cut in supplies. The initial proposed budget was brought to the Budget Committee last year. Ken Takeda recommended that across the board restoration not be made at this time. Adrienne Foster stated that she did not think the Budget Committee was presented with the cuts in detail. Olga Shewfelt spoke to the lack of facts in this area. She felt that her constituents would emphasize the restoration of classes first. Anything remaining should be addressed in a fair way. Ken Takeda reiterated the position of leaving the budget as it is and using program review as a basis for additional allocations in the 2013-14 budget. Adrienne Foster requested that more data be brought back to the Committee at the next meeting and item 4f be tabled until then. There was no disagreement to this suggestion.

**Items 4d and 4e.** Next there was discussion of items 4d and 4e. Dr. Duke stated that in 2012-13 Student Services experienced significant cuts. He felt that the restoration of the Men’s Basketball program (item 4d) would directly support instructional goals because Athletics programs at West are a powerful support for student completion/graduation. Furthermore, this decision is time-sensitive because recruitment for coaches and students must start now in order to have a program next year. The President gave his perspective on restoring funds as being part of a larger conversation about the need to continue to show restraint. Proposition 30 funds are not new money; this inflow has only kept community colleges from having to budget and survive at the worst-case financial scenario. However, it does not make sense to show restraint in the context of science supplies and a successful athletic program. Science supplies are necessary for basic instruction and athletics are the most successful learning communities on campus.

Bob Sprague pointed out the cut to the Science budget was not the result of academic consultation and therefore restoration would be properly characterized as a “correction.” Olga Shewfelt expressed the need for due process because other departments would feel that they too needed a “correction.” She also stated that she would like to hear the presentations related to these items. Abraha Bahta spoke to the impossibility of providing instruction with such a restricted supplies budget. Last year they ran out of supplies by February and had to receive an emergency inflow of needed funds. The same thing has happened this year. Adrienne Foster mentioned, in support of Abraha’s position, that our STEM grants depend on a viable science program.

Next Steve Aggers presented his case for the restoration of the men's basketball program. He stated that it was his understanding that the defunding of an athletic program was a temporary measure made in order to balance a budget based on the assumption that Proposition 30 would not pass. Since Prop 30 did pass, he felt justified in requesting the resumption of funding for this program. He is requesting 45K in order to hire a part-time head coach, a part-time assistant coach, and have funds available for necessary supplies and other expenses. This request is for spending in 2013-14, but he needs approval now so that he can recruit coaches and students. He reminded the committee that the athletics program has the best student success rate on campus, with a 76% graduation rate.

Olga Shewfelt spoke in support of the value of college sports programs and their valid connection with student success in other areas of school achievement. Fran Leonard suggested that this request be part of the program review resource request process for budget year 2013-14. The President said that we could not wait for normal processing and that was why this item was informational on the agenda. Rebecca Tillberg noted that the program review prioritization process does not encompass emergency requests, which the timing on this request appears to be. The President reiterated that the Budget Committee was being informed of this matter for purposes of transparency, to develop trust that all relevant information is being shared.

Adrienne Foster stated that documentation is important. Was it clear that this was only a one-year suspension? The President stated that there was, in retrospect, a naive assumption that if Proposition 30 passes, the men's basketball program could be re-instated in Spring 2013 and would not even have to wait one year. Olga Shewfelt requested that if a program is only to be suspended temporarily, that such an understanding be clearly stated in the minutes of the applicable Budget Committee meeting. Shalomon Duke stated that instructional cuts were made to achieve the 6% required by the District and have now been restored. Men's Basketball should follow the same model.

**Item 4a.** The Chair next called attention to the monthly projection based on November 2012 close. As the printout indicates, an ending balance of \$822,316 is currently being projected and this projection includes 1/3 of the cost of a Summer A intercession.

**Item 4b.** The Chair indicated that there was discussion at the most recent District Budget Committee Meeting on December 12, 2012, of the distribution of the State's mandated cost reimbursement to the colleges. The District would retain a portion of this reimbursement because the District had budgeted to the 6% reduction that was required of the colleges, but did not receive any restoration in the form of the EPA funds. The EPA funds had to be spent on direct instruction or instructional support. There was also discussion of redistribution to the colleges of 2.5% of the new 7.5% contingency reserve established this fiscal year. The DBC executive has recommended this redistribution to the Chancellor who has in turn recommended it to

the Board. Hopefully it will be approved at the March Board meeting. West's share would be \$692,943. Further good news for future funding was outlined in a recent webinar regarding the Governor's 2013-14 budget. Community Colleges could expect about a 5% increase each of the upcoming years in which the sales tax increase is in effect.

**Item 4g.** PIE Committee Report. Rebecca Tillberg stated that program review across the college should be completed by 2/1/13, for the first time in electronic form. Some reports are available and more are in development. A draft Rubric for Prioritizing Program Review Resource Requests has been developed and disseminated for comment. A copy of this draft is attached and considered part of these minutes. Evaluation of resource requests will occur at an upcoming joint meeting of the PIE Committee and the Budget Committee, suggested for February 20 from 12:30 – 3:30.

5. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 PM.