

## Budget Talking Points from William Duncan Superintendent/President Sierra College to BOG January Meeting

1. Strongly support the Governor's hold harmless proposal as it reflects the biggest ask of the Task Force. Eliminates the fiscal cliff that many of our colleges were facing. Also allows for full implementation of the funding formula.
2. Support a higher base funding increase for colleges. The systems request included \$500 million for a Technology Basic Allocation increase. Appreciate the \$25 million ongoing and \$75 million one-time for technology but it's not nearly enough. As board member Epstein pointed out, our campuses have all significantly increased our reliance upon technology throughout the pandemic. We are now operating both in person and virtual campuses. We need more staff and the

ability to invest more in our technology or we will not be able to maintain this long term. Additionally, the cyber threat to our campuses has never been greater. As a campus that was recently hit with a cyber-attack, we are investing millions into boosting our defense and we need staff and technology to maintain this permanently.

3. Advocate for Pension buy down for districts – We are experiencing significant pension cost increases. The state used one-time funds two years ago to help mitigate pension cost increases, I would argue that it's a good investment with so much one-time money available. Without some support in this area, many colleges are estimating that this will eat up 30/40 % of their COLA.
4. Request that Chancellor either convene a workgroup or use an existing body (Fiscal Standards?) to analyze the impacts of

enrollment declines and the use of Emergency Conditions to address district concerns. Recommendations could be made later in the spring once enrollment data has been submitted.