

Chapter 6 – Business and Fiscal Affairs

BP 6200 Budget Preparation

References:

Education Code Section 70902(b)(5); Title 5 Sections 58300 et seq.

Each year, the CEO shall present to the Board of Trustees a budget, prepared in accordance with Title 5 and the California Community Colleges Budget and Accounting Manual. The schedule for presentation and review of budget proposals shall comply with State law and regulations and provide adequate time for appropriate review.

Budget development shall meet the following criteria:

- The General Fund Budget shall support the College's Mission, Master Plan, Educational Plan, goals, and priorities. It shall also support existing educational programs and services;
- The annual budget shall be developed in sufficient detail to give a clear indication of the major items of revenues and expenditures, including the College's goals, plans, and purposes for expenditures;
- Assumptions upon which the budget is based are presented to the Board of Trustees for review;
- On or before the first day of July each year, the Board of Trustees shall adopt a tentative budget;
- The College shall make the proposed budget available for public inspection at least three days prior to the public hearing, at which any resident in the district may appear and object to the proposed budget or any item in the budget;
- The Board of Trustees shall hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year in a College facility or some other place conveniently accessible to the residents of the district;
- On or before the 15th day of September, the Board of Trustees shall adopt a final budget;
- Changes in the assumptions upon which the budget was based shall be reported to the Board of Trustees in a timely manner;
- Budget projections address long-term goals and commitments;
- Annual fiscal year revenue and expenditure estimates shall be developed conservatively with the goal of projecting a balanced budget with preference for adopting a surplus, that is, an excess of revenue over expenditures;
- Recognizing that expenditures fluctuate and that income is not fully ascertained until the following fiscal year, it is the College's goal to manage this dynamic process to assure that actual total income for the year exceeds total expenditures;

- To assure ongoing fiscal health and stability, every effort shall be made to maintain the total Unrestricted General Fund Balance at not less than 10% of expenditures. If the General Fund Balance becomes less than 10%, the College will present a plan within 120 days to restore the deficit or shortage within two fiscal years.
- In times of fiscal uncertainty, the Board of Trustees may, by resolution, waive the clause in this policy of maintaining a ten percent Unrestricted General Fund Balance. Upon recommendation of the College President/CEO, reserves may be utilized to the extent necessary down to a level of five percent of the expenditures of the Unrestricted General Fund. The reduced Unrestricted General Fund Balance must remain at a level no lower than five percent. It is intended that this exception be considered temporary in nature and restoration as stated in the above bulleted clause be implemented;
- If revenues exceed expenditures in any given fiscal year, the College may allocate surplus funds to institutional priorities as determined through the annual planning and budgeting process. Restoration of reserves to the ten percent level, as stated in the above bulleted clause, shall be given priority; and
- Adoption of the final budget by the Board of Trustees acknowledges the College's Mission, goals, plans, and priorities. Budget adoption by the Board of Trustees constitutes legal authority for the receipt and disbursement of funds and the implementation of the budget.

Adopted July 28, 2004