

**Minutes of Strategic Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee
Held on February 8, 2024
Via Zoom**

Tri-Chairs Present: Lindsey Ayotte, Joe Morello, Ingrid Vargas

Members Present: Hellen Zhang, Kevin Corsiglia, Isabelle Escobar, Nancy Kaplan-Biegel, Lorraine DeMello, Leigh Anne Shaw, Alice Yang, Ellen Murray, Chris Gibson, Gavin Townsley, Vivian Paw, Shaun Perisho, Christopher Collins, Karen Wong, Kenyatta Weathersby, Chris Watters; Rod Daus-Magbual, Elian Fontanilla

Members Absent: Miranda Wang, Liz Llamas, Luis Escobar, Cassidy Ryan-White

Resource Persons Present: Paul Cassidy, Judy Hutchinson, Zahra Mojtahedi

Guests Present: None

ACTION ITEMS/REPORT

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:22 p.m.

1. **SPARCKle Minutes:** The SPARCKle Minutes ice-breaker topic for discussion was “What is a food that you have an aversion to when you were a child?” (and most likely due to it not being prepared correctly!)
2. **February 8, 2024 Agenda Approval**
A motion was made by Karen Wong and seconded by Rod Daus-Magbual to approve the February 8, 2024 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **November 9, 2023 Minutes Approval**
A motion was made by Rod Daus-Magbual and seconded by Nancy Kaplan-Biegel to approve the November 9, 2023 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION/REPORT ITEMS

4. **State and SMCCD Budget Outlook FY 24-25**

Joe Morello presented on the Preliminary Budget for FY 24-25. Highlights from the Governor’s Budget for California include a \$38 billion dollar deficit to be covered using a combination of rainy-day funds, deferred spending and reductions in one-time and continuing spending in combination with improved revenues. These proposals do not impact community colleges *for now*. The budget provides a 0.76% COLA for select categorical programs.

The Legislative Analyst Office Fiscal Outlook projects a larger deficit of \$58 billion largely due to differences in baseline changes and revenue treatment. The analysis notes the Governor’s revenue projections are plausible but optimistic and spending reductions lack a plan. Multi-year deficits are anticipated moving forward.

The Assembly and Senate will be holding hearings in the coming months. The Governor will provide a May revise based on tax collections through April. The expectation is that the Assembly, Senate and Governor will agree on a budget in June.



SMCCCD's Preliminary Budget incorporates the major Board Initiatives of SB893, Promise Scholars Program and Food/Housing Insecurity. Skyline College internal budget guidelines aligns with the District's guidelines. Shared district wide costs for technology, insurance and utilities and benefits expenses are expected to increase. On the revenue side, the County Assessor's Assessment Roll is lower than the past two years at this similar time. Albeit early, the projections for FY 24-25 will result in a fourth consecutive year with a negative adjustment to all sites in the district, including Skyline College. The VPAS office will monitor and continue to update SPARC through the coming months for the Tentative Budget due in June. The College will plan conservatively for FY 24-25.

The [presentation slides](#) and a [bulleted summary](#) have been posted to the SPARC webpage.

5. EMP Goal 6 Strategy B: “Promote community understanding of Skyline College business practices and decision making” (Breakout discussion groups)

The Committee met in smaller groups to address how to promote better understanding of Skyline College budget practices and decision making, as called for in the Education Master Plan, Goal 6, Strategy B?

It was recognized that an understanding of allocation of resources and transparent budget processes are an integral component to participatory governance. Comments and discussion feedback suggested better education of the community, building an equity lens into decisions, online landing page, recognizing budget literacy and process understanding is a universal and continuing challenge.

Discussion group report-outs emphasized the desire among community members for greater transparency about how funding decisions are made, what the process is, what criteria are considered, and explanations of the reasoning and/or circumstances for funding x, but not y.

Suggestions including having flex-day sessions on budget processes, and using division meetings to communicate funding decisions and explanations. SPARC members recognized their role in reporting back to their constituent group or division, and reiterated a request for bulleted summaries of SPARC presentations to support members in fulfilling their reporting responsibilities.

REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will take place on Thursday February 29, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.