

## Minutes of the Strategic Planning and Resource Allocation Committee

Held on January 29, 2026

Zoom: <https://smccd.zoom.us/j/89715478630>

**Chairs Present:** Paul Cassidy, Ingrid Vargas, Cassidy Ryan

**Members Present:** Michelle Amaral, Lindsey Ayotte, Chris Collins, Jose Cartegena, Kevin Corsiglia, Chelssee DeBarra, Lorraine DeMello, Eric Imahara, Nancy Kaplan-Biegel, Michael Kane, Albin Lee, Liz Llamas, Will Minnich, Andy Murillo, Jiaxuan Qiao, Bianca Rowden-Quince, Eric Torres, Gavin Townsley, Monique Ubungen Wardell, Chris Watters, Phillip Williams, Clair Yeo-Sugajski, Hellen Zhang

**Members Absent:** Lauren Ford, Filipp Gleyzer, Katie Hern, Vivian Paw, Roger Perez-Vaughan, Kenyatta Weathersby

**Resource Persons Present:** Zahra Mojtahedi, Rebecca Threewit (recorder), Karen Wong

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1. **SPARCKle Minutes:** What air instrument do you play most when music is playing?

## 2. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

### 2.1. Call to Order

Committee Tri-Chair Cassidy Ryan called the regular meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

## 3. ACTION ITEM(S)

### 3.1. Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Nancy Kaplan-Biegel and seconded by Ingrid Vargas to approve the January 29, 2026 meeting agenda. The motion carried.

### 3.2. Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Ingrid Vargas and seconded by Monique Ubungen Wardell to approve the November 13, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion carried.

### 3.3. Proposal to Reduce Frequency of SPARC Meetings

Members voted to on a recommendation to reduce the frequency of SPARC meetings to one meeting per month, to be held on the second Thursday of the month. Discussion resulted in a stipulation that should an urgent vote by SPARC be required between meetings, a vote on an action item may be conducted by email or survey [with participation of at least 50% + 1 of SPARC members required for the vote to be valid.] Eighteen members voted in favor of the recommendation, and two abstained. The recommendation will be brought to CGC for consideration at the February 25 meeting, and will be brought for action at the March 25 meetings.

## 4. DISCUSSION/REPORT

### 4.1. Budget Update and Discussion

Paul Cassidy provided a financial update on the Governor's proposed budget, Fund 1

projections for fiscal year 2026–27, and current-year activity in Funds 3 and 4. He reviewed major components of the state budget, including Proposition 98 funding, COLA and enrollment growth allocations, capital outlay, deferred maintenance funding, and one-time investments for community colleges, noting a modest projected state deficit that could affect categorical and student support funding.

Paul also summarized Fund 3 and Fund 4 activity. Year-to-date Fund 3 expenditures totaled approximately \$9.3 million, an increase from the prior year, supporting grants, contracts, and student support services across multiple divisions, with Counseling, Enrollment Services, and equity-related programs representing the largest shares. Fund 4 updates included allocations for instructional equipment, computer replacements, classroom furniture upgrades, small capital projects, and future investments in instructional equipment and campus signage. Paul noted that ongoing computer replacement needs will require sustained annual funding. Committee members asked clarifying questions regarding Strong Workforce funding and site allocation trends, and Paul indicated that projections are expected to become clearer as the fiscal year progresses. Paul's [budget presentation slides](#) can be found on the [SPARC website](#).

#### **5. NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regular SPARC meeting will take place on Thursday, February 12 2026.

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.