

## **FINANCIAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**04/01/21**

**12:50pm to 1:50pm**

**ZOOM Remotely**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Amber Casolari, Asatar Bair, Elia Blount, Jim Knieriem, Sendy Powell, David Olukoju, Leo Truttman, Tucker Amidon, Alice Awe, Liz Tatum (not present).

**Guest Speakers:** Elizabeth Hilton, Director Student Financial Services  
Rachel Weiss, Dean, Grants Development and Administration

**Approved Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the 3/11/21 meeting was approved by consensus.

### **PROMISE PROGRAM/CARES ACT FUNDING (Guest Speaker, Elizabeth Hilton)**

Elizabeth Hilton gave a report to the committee on the Promise Program Funding for the students which is funded in three different ways. First is the CCPG, California College Promise Grant which is a tuition waiver, (used to be call the Bog waiver) that covers the \$46 per unit tuition fee. This program is based on the criteria of the students that applied for the FAFSA or the dream application and is also based on unmet need, but not necessarily a strict income basis. If the students qualify to have their tuition waived through the CCPG program, it doesn't affect the college, as far as the budget is concerned. CCPG is open-ended funding, which means that it is funded by the state, it is not just an allocated amount. The second source of funding is under the AB19 Promise funding which is an allocated funding model, from the state and the college receives just under a million dollars. To use these funds, students must be full time, first time students at the start of their educational program and this program can continue for two full years, if they keep that status. During fall and spring this can cover tuition and fees, and whatever the student needs for their classes. Thirdly, if there are still student accounts that need to be paid, RCC funding comes into play to pick up what is left over. Financial aid does try to maximize out the two state funding sources first, the CCPG and AB19, before we fall back onto RCC funding. The state funds are usually spent out fast, with allocations covering student tuition, then student fees and then other costs like student book vouchers that the program provides for them and these funding allocations need to be reported under MIS to the state. The RCC's funding is tuition received from the international students, it is transferred over through an interfund transfer into a specific special program code, this money gets rolled over each year and is basically kept for funding students. The benefit of having that third pot of money allow the program to be as big as it can grow.

How is the CARES ACT funding impacting financial aid? The CARES ACT funding is not a need based award, the Department of Ed declared it emergency funding, so it does not affect the students unmet need or what they can receive financially. There are multiple emergency grants, one is the Finish Line funding, this new state emergency money. Financial Aid has been able to accommodate all the different emergency grants that are being received. If a student never fills out a FAFSA because they are under the assumption that they're not going to get financial aid, those students still get the CARES funding. Because CARES funding is not Title IV aid, it is not reliant upon FAFSA. There aren't any criteria for the academic progress emergency grant funding from Federal for the corresponding. Since the FAFSA data is two years old, students just need to show that they have COVID related expenses. With the CARES application, it allows students to dictate their current need for the emergency funds without having to rely on data that was two years old and not an accurate depiction of a student's needs.

## **GRANTS (Guest Speaker Rachel Weiss)**

At our last meeting, indirect costs were discussed and feedback was given the Dr. West. It was suggested by Dr. West to have Rachel come and speak to the FRC committee regarding these indirect costs and utilizing the funds for the college, as she is working on a policy statement regarding this. Unlike direct costs that have a very strict and fixed timeline for expenditure, indirect costs just keep growing. The collection of indirect costs are based on expenditures, draw down and collect the percentage that has been allowed to be collected from the expenditures. In 2015, although it was voted on, and an actual written policy was never documented; resulted where the district retains 17% for the support that they provide the institutions and the three institutions collect 83% of the indirect costs generated based on their grant activity. There is a real impetus on the CARES ACT money which all the colleges are looking at this right now. The CARES ACT monies that are coming in are very substantial, with the need to be spent quickly. The CARES money started out with significant restrictions and then became more flexible, as the state was bombarded with questions from the entire country about the money. There is another round of monies coming in that will be just as substantial and it will need to be expended just as quickly. What was unusual and a surprise, the state allowed institutions to collect their full indirects on this last wave of money. The Department of Ed established that with 98% or more of the grants they made, those grants were fixed at 8% because the department considered them training awards. Colleges said this is not a "training award" and should be indirect costs. Since there is a whole variety of levels of indirect costs that are supported, policy has been worked on, by Lori at the district, the executive director of the Grant's office and the three Deans of the grants and the business offices. Norco had a substantial amount of monies and very aggressively came up with their policy. Rachel has written a very initial statement, following the initial draft from Lori which talks about the 17/83 split. Statements will be submitted to VP West, VP DiMemmo and others to discuss and will advance along those lines to make sure the policy is consistent between the colleges, creating equity moving forward. The college has already identified two very critical staffing needs, in the fiscal area as it is known that post award grant support is very taxing and there are too few people to do the work. The staffing needs to grow in the insurance and grants office. There are other needs for professional development, support for faculty and staff. Our policy statement will center around the spending priorities, as opposed to fixed percentages or fixed dollar amounts because that is problematic, as things change over the years, the base shifts or a program grows. Fixed amounts and percentages do not grow, and the policy would need to be revised, which would be time consuming. A priority list and then decision making on critical needs should occur, as opposed to, always getting fixed amounts/percentages of the money. The growth and sustainability of the College going forward should be a priority.

## **DBAC**

At the last DBAC meeting, there are discussion about revenue losses because of COVID and the shutdown which was broken out into different categories which adds up to less than \$11 million. There is still the ongoing discussion about what are unique programs, and what are the criteria is still going on. The statement about what is and is not a unique program and that the definition seems to be very important. It needs to be looked at from the strategic plan outlook of the entire college. The committee has the desire to define it in a pretty detailed fashion.

**DBAC (subgroup)**

The meeting was cancelled. We are still working on the BAM spreadsheet which has not changed, and we have not moved any programs in or out of the unique programs. When there is an update, it will be brought to this committee.

**BUDGET**

The flowchart, is still being worked on presently because anything outside of strategic planning would not use that resource request form. The resource request form has been going out to the different councils to get approval and a consensus on how we can move forward, so it can be used with any documents that are submitted for strategic planning. Regarding the equipment requests throughout the fiscal year, there is a need for some sort of gauge that can be used of what the definition of an emergency or the most actual important needs of each department. A process needs to be established whereas, a department can say, we need equipment for XYZ, and then being able to backfill for that and then determine if it is outside of strategic planning and can be done on an emergency basis. A flow chart needs to be able to pinpoint how equipment requests can be pushed through.

In response to questions on information videos, small short video trainings on Galaxy, will be uploaded shortly onto the website and everyone will have access to those.

Next meeting will be second Thursday of May, the 13<sup>th</sup> at college hour.