

FINANCIAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING

10/15/20

1:00pm to 2:00pm

ZOOM Remotely

MINUTES

This was our first meeting of the 2020-21 academic year.

Attendees: Amber Casolari, Elia Blount, Megan Bottoms, Sendy Powel, Liz Tatum, Asatar Bair, Alice Awe

New Members: David Olukoju, Leo Truttman

Approved Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the 5/28/20 meeting were approved by consensus

DBAC (Budget)

July through September is typically a tentative budget for the next fiscal year as RCCD are still closing out the last fiscal year's expenses that ran from July 1 to June 30, 2020 and accounts still needed to be reconciled. With the last fiscal year closed out and the final numbers given, the Board of Trustees will approve and adopt the permanent budget for the new fiscal year. Due to COVID 19, there were a few budgeted shortfalls with reductions in the revenue between March and June, 2020. Revenue is normally received from the cafeteria, from parking, and various other areas, but not this year, so adjustment approvals were required from different committees. The finalization of 2021 budget was extended and will be in Galaxy next week. The budget shortfall was about \$15 million in revenue, due to the closure from March through June. The the dollar amount was offset with a salary savings of \$1.7 million. The colleges have decided to press pause on some open positions for a few months, and with the cut in the travel budget, our utilities cost reductions, because most parts of the colleges are closed, and our normal rollover amount will offset the shortfall. As in other years, there was no carryover balance, it is net zero right now. The district is hoping that the economy is going to pick up. A lot of the revenue that RCCD receives is from taxes and with taxes being pushed out this year, the state couldn't really tell us how much money we're going to get. It's dependent on the state budget once the state budget is approved. That's how we know how much we're going to get and what adjustments are going to have to be made. Fall semester FTE's have dropped and the budget is derived on anticipated FTE's, that impact won't be seen until about January or February. At that time, it's possible you'll see more budget cuts, either though hiring freezes, or cuts to discretionary budgets and it will be dependent on what the DBAC subgroup agrees on, for every college.

BUSINESS SERVICES- STUDENT ACCOUNTS

During June, an aging report was run, which is an accounting of the student account balances that were outstanding. COVID-19 has caused financial hardship to many of our students and were not able to make their payments. A survey was sent to students in the spring relating to non-payments and many expressed a need for payment options and/or partial payment capabilities. WebAdvisor and My Portal payment system doesn't allow students to make partial payments. A call of action was made by Business Services on what we can do to help the students and decrease their balances. What was proposed in partnership with Norco and Moreno Valley was a district wide initiative to open the Cashiers Office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10am to 2pm to allow the students to come in to the office by appointment or call during that time and make payments over the phone, whether partial or full. A number of Equity and Student Services programs requested cashiering services where we coordinated students come in to pick up gas cards and gift cards by appointment. The 20SPR outstanding student balance as on 6/29, was 2.7 million, and as of 10/15 the spring balance is 1.6, district wide. Chancellor's office removed the balance threshold, therefore students should have no problem registering regardless of a balance that may be on their account. However, this will perpetuate the student debt. The grand total on our accounts receivables is \$9.9 million district-

wide. RCCD participated the COTOP tax interception program again this year. Last year 2019 RCCD collected \$499,000 districtwide; California Chancellor Office retains 25% of what is collected which was approximately \$ 24,000 total collected was approximately \$374,000. This new contract year, COTOP implemented a new process where RCCD will have to send three collection letters to the students. We sent the first batch in September. The 2nd letter will go out in mid-October and the last one will go out in November. RCCD will be ready to upload are files to the Chancellor's office by December. Since the process for the 2020 COTOP had not be reconciled which had included Academic Years 17/18, and 18/19 we couldn't include them in the 2020 COTOP contract. 2020 COTOP year will include student balances from terms 16 SPRING and 16FALL totaling \$455,000.

CARES ACT

There are two parts to the Cares Act; the first part is direct aid to students. It's not known what was decimated between the three colleges. The college is awaiting confirmation from the Director of Business Services over at the district office to find out how much that was and how they're determining how those awards are going to be distributed to the students. The CARES 2 portion to RCC was \$5.4 million. \$881,000 was given to the district office for Distance Ed infrastructure, information technology, Ab 705, continuation of support, and then also COVID response activities. The remaining amount is going towards technology training. Virtual people are working virtually but don't know how to use the virtual applications. Computers, 500 laptops, licenses to Adobe Creative code, ongoing training, professional development and a Wi Fi system set up in the parking structure was for students. There were conversions to classrooms to be able to support online learning. Face masks, Plexiglas, hand sanitizing stations, and PPE was also included. PPE was \$300,000, just to provide it to the nursing students for this fiscal year. If CARES is continued for next fiscal year, it will be an additional funding, but that is not anticipated. The CARES 3 funding was \$687,000, which was to build IT capacity, and provide emergency aid to students. It was decided that a portion that was directed for the college was to be focused as direct aid to students to supplement CARES 1, for health care, childcare, food and housing. There is a hunger grant on campus, but what we happened is that at the time that you had to apply, you have to meet a certain financial need for allowable expenses and because this is an emergency situation where students' taxes from last year may not reflect their need today, the college is trying to offer more student aid that isn't FASFA based.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

With the Student Activities fees, Welcome boxes were created and sent to all of our students who have had a zero-base balance. About 6,500 boxes have gone out to students. These boxes contained a mask, canteen, incisor, notebook, a pen, and a welcome note. We did a drive thru toiletry and supply distribution for about 200 students. ASRCC is discussing about distributing another stimulus, also. Talks are being held about Thanksgiving and handing out goodie bags for student who may not be able to have Thanksgiving with their families. As a side note Student Activities is no longer involved in Hungry Tigers, this now goes through Dr. Carter. The grant from RTA came through, transportation is paid for which helps gives us a little bit more money that can be used, and then trying to do some voting and advocacy. We have so many irons in the fire right now.

DATABASES

More to come on the Academic & Non-Academic database on the next FRC meeting. Director Liz Tatum will be meeting with Deans in the next coming weeks and will report out.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November the 12th.