PGC Budget Committee Meeting

October 10, 2023 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

MINUTES

Member of Budget Committee: Adil Ahmed (Chair), Garth Kwiecien (A), Linda Wu (A) Susana Atwood (F), Ekaterina (Katia) Fuchs (F), Jessica Buchsbaum (F), Maria Salazar- Colon (C), Michael Snider (C), David Delgado (C), Emily Oryall (S), Samin Amin (S)
Alternates: John Halpin (A), Anthony Tave (A), Maria D'Souza (A), E. Simon Hanson (F), Doug Orr (F) Vaishali Jogi (C) Gudu Kere(C), Shannon Rouchon (S)

Members Present: Adil Ahmed (Chair), Garth Kwiecien (A), Linda Wu (A), Susana Atwood (F), Ekaterina (Katia) Fuchs (F), Jessica Buchsbaum (F), Maria Salazar- Colon (C Michael Snider (C), David Delgado (C),
Alternates Present: John Halpin(A),Joesph Reyes(F), Vaishali Jogi(C), Gudu Kere(C).
Members Absent: Emily Oryall (S), Samin Amin (S), Shannon Rouchon(S)

Meeting Called to Order at 1:05 PM

No.	Item	Discussion/Outcome	Follow-up/Individual Response
1.	Introductions &Roll Call	Committee member Joseph Reyes was welcomed and introduced. He said a few words and Roll call was taken.	VCFA Office Rep.
2.	Approval of agenda	VCFA Office Rep. asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Committee member Fuchs moved to approve the agenda. Committee member Kwiecien seconded the motion. All those in Favor said "Aye" agenda was approved.	VCFA Office Rep.
4.	Public Comment	• No public comment	
5.	Report from Constituent Groups	• Associated Students – No report. • Academic Senate –No report. • Admin Association – No Report. • AFT – Committee Member Atwood expressed her enthusiasm that the budget book is on the agenda. • Classified Senate – No Report. • SEIU – No Report.	
6.	New Items • Discussion on recommendations on 23-24 Adoption Budget.	AVC Ahmed provided an overview of the 23-24 adopted budget. He explained revenues and expenditures and allocations which were being transferred out. Committee Member Atwood expressed her concerns regarding the allocations which were being transferred out. She continued to explain to the committee they had an	

		option to bring up concerns regarding the allocations or move forward to prepare for next fiscal year. Committee member Buchsbaum expressed her concerns about the memo which is attached to the budget and asked what the 1.4% is based upon. AVC Ahmed explained that at the time when the memo was written he wasn't a part of the process. He explained that through previous experience he believes that they were taking pre-pandemic FTES numbers as a base to try to match schedule C from the State. Then compared it with the actual number as of today. Further discussion occurred to provide better explanation of the numbers that the committee is reviewing. Committee Member Atwood suggested that she would also look at the appropriations because they also break down to credit and non-credit on the State apportionment for each year. She suggested to use the second payment as the final number to compare all 5 years. She feels that Committee member Buchsbaum is correct that after reviewing and discovery of the numbers they would be different. Committee Member Atwood stated that although it may be too late to provide insight for this adopted budget, she wanted the committee to realize that there is still one section that they could have an opinion upon which is the Board designated reserves, transfers out allocations. She highlighted the budget committee procedures and how the committee could move forward should they want to. However, if the committee wants to move forward with FY 24/25 Budget book that would be fine too. She stated that $4M of OPEB has already been approved in a resolution however, it could be re-discussed. And, Self-insurance $3M wasn't all for relief for insurance. Her findings was part of that was also going to OPEB. AVC Ahmed explain that the transfer out funds were allocated costs regarding for an agreement with salary increases. Committee Member Atwood agreed with AVC Ahmed and continued to explain that the Board does go to the Budget Committee to ask what their opinion may be. She continued to explain the Board unallocated costs and how the committee could provide suggestions moving forward.	

		Committee Member Buchbaum suggested that the committee make a recommendation that the budget do more prioritizing to increase enrollment. So, in the long term the District could get out of this kind of hold harmless lockdown. She asked if any of the transfers could be postpone or not made. To focus on student services, classes ability to maximize enrollment. Committee Member Fuchs asked what does a budget that prioritizes increasing enrollment look like. She stated how she struggles with this question because of evidence that having more classes bring in more students. She asked What approach would be taken, and she suggested that this may be a conversation that the Budget committee has with the enrollment committee. She continued to explain that in past efforts to increase enrollment by adding sections were limited because the background work wasn't done to determine which classes to add. She agrees that the District needs to get to a place where when Hold Harmless goes away that our funding will balance out. Committee Member Atwood agreed with Committee Member Fuchs to have a joint meeting with the enrollment committee moving forward. She explained that last semester many students were on waiting lists that were limited to 10. One way to get data is to expand the waiting lists and then add sections. She explained that by planning by using flexibility, you meet the demand that you have. She expressed her disappointment that in Fall 2023 we turned away students because our waiting list is capped to 10. Committee member Kwiecien asked AVC Ahmed if the whole purpose of this money is set aside for the upcoming negotiations and settlement for raises. AVC Ahmed agreed with Committee member Kwiecien and explained that the unallocated costs is money that is set aside for upcoming negotiations and settlements for raises. Committee member Kwiecien verified that in order to do the outreach and marketing we would need more money to be set aside. AVC Ahmed agreed and explained that we need to look for more revenues and resources. He continued to explain that	

		we do have challenges but as we work together we can figure out a solution. Committee member Atwood wanted to clarify that when Garth was talking about outreach, she wasn't talking about outreach but she was talking about meeting the demand we already have. She stated that it's important to look at both of those things. And, second, there was an enormous amount of money given by the State the last 2 years for us to do outreach, and we didn't have to spend a dime out of our general fund so, and we left that on the table and didn't even use it. AVC Ahmed agreed with committee member Atwood that for couple of years we received outreach funds from the State category of fund. Committee member Linda Wu asked followed up questions to try to understand the needs to move the requests of the committee forward. AVC Ahmed provided a brief explanation of his experience working in various Districts using hold harmless. Committee member Atwood stated that many Districts that are under hold harmless that do good are from rural areas. She stated that if you look at the Districts who have issues with hold harmless computation they would be urban districts. She highlighted that people out in the valley where it is half amount to live would get the same amount of money per FTES. She expressed her concerns about a prejudice against the urban campuses if there's no adjustment for cost of living in cities. She concluded that the some of the Board discretionary fund transfer out item could be used to add sections. Committee member Buchbaum hopes that further discussion occur within the District and asked how we reflect these conversations in the budget. Committee member Fuch also expressed her support for opening new sections. She provided suggestions about moving forward. She asked how our budget reflects the fact that we prioritize, not only bringing new students in, but keeping the students we have already.	

		Committee member Reyes wanted to bring the committee back to Committee member Atwood's suggestion. Does his committee want to make a statement about this money. Committee member Salazar-Colon expressed her concerns about how this is difficult for her when there is monies on the table for negotiations over wages and the committee is having this discussion about these funds and negotiations have not been finalized. She stated that SEIU 1021 had to file a UAP and may need to strike. Committee member Kwiecien agreed with Committee member Salazar-Colon that the funds are allocated to various areas. He stated that the committee needed to keep in mind that this isn't free money we are taking it out of other accounts in anticipation of expenditures. AVC Ahmed explained that the Board mentioned to take the money and put it into an unallocated account. It may be used for salaries or may be used for something else. He stated that it really depends how the Board wants to move forward with this allocation. Committee member Jogi suggested how to move forward if the committee would like to suggest a recommendation to the budget. AVC Ahmed stated that he would follow up to find out how we're spending our outreach, and our retention to date. Committee member Atwood stated that she was looking at allocated numbers from our outside independent auditors for outreach but it was from FY 21-22. She also wanted AVC Ahmed to find out what were the allocated numbers for 22-23. AVC Ahmed thanked the committee and looks forward to working with the committee.	
8.	Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 2:00PM.	VCFA Office Rep.