



Budget and Planning Committee

Meeting Agenda

July 29, 2021

11:00-12:30pm – Zoom

(details are in the calendar invite)

1. Approval of minutes for April 1, 2021 meeting (attached)
2. Review and adoption of the proposed FY22 tax-levy budget and CRRSAA / Plan (attached)

Budget and Planning Committee Meeting
Minutes
July 29, 2021

Attendees: Karol Mason, Aftab Ahmad, Cat Alves, Ned Benton, Andrew Berezhansky, Franklyn Bernabe, Benjamin Bierman, Teresa Booker, Dara Byrne, Anthony Chambers, Anthony Carpi, Shu-Yuan (Demi) Cheng, Brian Cortijo, Warren Eller, Tyrell Farrulla, Mark Flower, Jay Gates, Maki Haberfeld, Karen Kaplowitz, Brian Kerr, Jeffrey Kroessler, Brian Lawton, Yi Li, Vincente Lecuna, José Luis Morín, Allison Pease, Francis Sheehan, Ed Snajdr, Daryl Wout, and Alison Orlando (recorder)

Guests: Kinya Chandler, Ajisa Dervisevic, Rulisa Galloway-Perry, Alena Ryjov, and Roger Szajngarten

1. Approval of Minutes for April 1, 2021. The minutes were approved as proposed.
2. Review and adoption of the proposed FY 2022 tax-levy budget and CRRSAA plan. There was a short discussion on the CUNY Comeback Program where stimulus funds will be used to pay off student balances for the Spring, Summer, and Fall 2020 semesters and the Spring 2021 semester. The discussion then shifted to approving the budget for FY 2022. Karol M. gave some background. She explained that the college has been working on modeling where we will be financially in the out-years and looking to maximize the federal stimulus funds. She said she wanted to use the opportunity with the federal funds to put us on solid financial footing in perpetuity, but the reality is we are seeing a deficit after FY 2023. She added that CUNY has to prepare as a system for the out-years and they have committed to look at the funding and allocation model. In the interim, we are working with the current methodology, and we need to focus on the budget for FY 2022. Mark F. moved on to present the FY 2022 budget to the committee. He explained that the budget is broken up into two parts: the tax levy, and the CRRSAA and ARPA funds. He explained that we will submit our financial plan to CUNY along with a plan on utilizing the stimulus funds. He first went over the tax levy side of the budget. He explained that the college has a total budget allocation of \$115,313,973 with expenditures totaling \$127,044,001. He added that this portrays how there is a systemic imbalance in our revenue and expenditures leading to a deficit before factoring in CRRSAA and ARPA. Mark F. then went over the plan for utilizing the CRRSAA and ARPA funds. He went over the allowable categories where the funds can be applied and explained how the college has planned to use the funds. He said that \$19,311,457 of the CRRSAA and ARPA funds will be going back into the tax levy budget with \$12,788,796 of that being used to close the gap. This will result in a year-end balance of \$7,476,973 for the FY 2022 tax-levy budget. Yi L. then spoke about faculty hiring. Yi L. explained that the college has the lowest full-time coverage among CUNY and with the stimulus funds we have an opportunity to substantially increase the number of full-time faculty. He went over the five-year plan for faculty hires that takes into consideration instructional need, the strategic plan, and supporting a culturally responsive, inclusive, and anti-racist curriculum. He went over the four main phases of the plan for faculty hiring. The first phase will be converting 34 substitute lines to regular full-time lines with 18 lines being converted this year. The second phase is to continue to support and maintain 10 existing substitute lines. The third phase is to add substitute lines. The last phase is to add full-time faculty to our programs. The floor was then opened to questions about the budget. Ned. B. he will vote for the budget, but he has some concerns. He talked about a lack of clarity on how the faculty hiring plan relates to the budget, the static enrollment situation, the cost estimates of faculty hiring, the lack of an all-funds budget, and the funding of those hired under the student success initiatives after the stimulus funds run out. He also stated that we should see a copy of the financial plan and the faculty hiring plan.

Karol M. addressed his concerns. She explained that what we submit to CUNY is not static and projections will continue to be refined as we move forward. She also spoke about how the college is working on developing an all-funds budget as the tax levy budget alone cannot sustain the college. She talked about how the student success initiatives have always been supported by philanthropy and will do so going forward after the stimulus funds are used up. She added that we are using the stimulus funds to support the student success initiatives now to maximize earnings on the philanthropy money for later. She also spoke about how the faculty hiring process is iterative, and we are still speaking to chairs about it. She finished by explaining that we will share what we submit to CUNY with the committee. Cat. A. inquired about vacancies for staff in 2020 - 2021. Karol M. said that we are developing plans with the Vice Presidents on staffing, and we are still using the VRB process. She added that we are trying to be thoughtful on the administrative side and to be strategic in allocating resources. Francis S. voiced his concern about vacancies in essential staff positions and wanted to make sure the vote today would not keep those positions vacant. Karol M. said refilling vacancies is not tied to the budget approval today. There was a motion to approve the FY 2022 Financial Plan and to submit it to CUNY. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Brian C. asked to speak on staff hiring. He wanted to make the point that when staff depart their work does not disappear and the work is redistributed among their colleagues who most of the time are not compensated. He asked that while we have this opportunity to not only focus on replacing faculty but to look at the staff side as well. Karol M. thanked Brian C. for this characterization and said she will keep this in mind as we move forward. The meeting was called to a close.