



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CITY COLLEGE • MESA COLLEGE • MIRAMAR COLLEGE • COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

DISTRICT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MINUTES

September 1, 2021

Present: Beresford, Boger, Borek, Bromma, Crocitti, Dowd, King (for Parrill), Kostic (for Smith), Lundburg, Luster, Mahler, Manis, Murphy, Ryan, Shabazz, Short, Spearman, Topham, Trinh, and Chairperson Cortez

Absent: Bocaya, Kovrig, Parrill, Smith, Young

Guests: Ficken, Lamb, Lerma

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of August 18, 2021 were approved.

2. **REVIEW OF BOARD AGENDA**

The agenda for the September 9, 2021, Board Meeting was opened for review by Chancellor Cortez. Each item was discussed and satisfied.

3. **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Chancellor Cortez reported that all employees and all students who come onto campus are expected to be vaccinated. Both employees and students who have waivers, are expected to participate in regular testing. Testing at all four colleges and the District Office began last week. Any questions can be directed to Human Resources. Chancellor Cortez reminded the Council that there has always been a timeline for reopening in person operations with the goal of full in person reopening in early 2022. There is a student need for in person services based on demographic information and research. There has been a decline in enrollment for many of the vulnerable student populations.

Council member Crocitti asked for clarification on reopening plans in regard to being 100% back to in person operations. At the local campus level there is still uncertainty around being fully reopened for in person operations by January 2022, or if there will still be some operations that remain remote. Chancellor Cortez responded that due to the nature of the pandemic, it is hard to determine what the future months will hold and how it will affect the timeline to return. The District has decided to postpone some of the reopening plans to account for an anticipated spike in COVID 19 cases this fall. The pandemic has forever changed the world we work and live in, including how we deliver services to students. Distance education may become a bigger trend for the District, it is anticipated that some classes and services will continue to be offered online in the future.

The District has started the process of looking at policies and procedures for remote working. There may be an opportunity for certain classification of employees to continue to work remotely or in a hybrid model. Council member Borek commented that not all students have access to technology to access remote services and hopes to see more services return to in person operations.

Council member Bromma, added that some of the confusion has come from not addressing the details of how employees will perform their job under the pandemic circumstances. District leadership needs to continue updating employees with specific guidance on how to perform their job duties and what health and safety measures will be taken. Chancellor Cortez thanked everyone for their feedback and will try to be clearer in messaging.

4. **BOARD POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

Executive assistant to the Chancellor Lamb explained the process for reviewing District Policies and Procedures. Several policies and procedures have been updated to include DEI language, legal updates, and change in numbering. The changes will be going to the Board in the next few months after they are reviewed by several committees including DGC.

5. **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Chancellor Cortez reported that part of his goals as Chancellor is to facilitate the development of the District Strategic Plan as the current plan is about to sunset and needs to be renewed for accreditation and planning purposes. The Districts strategic plan is a compilation of highlights of the four colleges plans. Strategic planning is helpful and important to the vitality of an organization. It helps identity goals and provides critical framework for long term planning. It will likely be a year long process that includes feedback from the DGC and several other stakeholder and employee groups.

6. **BUDGET & FINANCE**

Executive Vice Chancellor Dowd reported that the District is entering the fourth year in which CA community colleges are funded under the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF). SCFF provides a “hold harmless” and “stability protection” for districts to ensure that all districts are provided apportionment revenue that is at least what they earned the prior year adjusted for annual Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) included in the state’s enacted budget. The SDCCD is a “hold harmless” district along with nearly half of the 73 districts in the CA community college system. The goal is to get out of a “hold harmless” protection because the district is getting revenue that it is not earning. There are only two ways in which a budget may truly be balanced, either increase annual revenue or decrease annual expenses.

The total adopted budget for FY 2021-22 is \$872,449,308, including \$552,173,840 in General Fund Unrestricted and Restricted operational funds. The ending fund balance for FY 20-21 increased by a surplus of \$3.3 million at year-end closing due to one-time federal funds, the hiring freeze, utility savings costs, and reduced travel costs. The hiring freeze will continue in FY 2021-22 with only critical positions being replaced as addressed previously in this presentation. Permanent and temporary reductions to expenses must continue to be identified and budget spending restraint must continue during FY 2021-22 to address what really is a \$13.6 million budget deficit if the hiring freeze was eliminated.

The SDCCD’s long-term focus continues to be on strategic, well-thought-out plans of action to respond to student needs, achieve educational goals and objectives, and address ever increasing operating costs. Executive Vice Chancellor Dowd echoed Chancellor Cortez’s comments around strategic planning. The District is taking action to begin a one-year districtwide strategic planning effort which will help ensure the least adverse impact on students, faculty and staff, while maintaining the fiscal stability of the District.

Adjourned 5:06 p.m.