



Rogue Community College
Budget Advisory Team Meeting



March 26, 2021, 11:30 a.m., via Zoom

Attendance: Lisa Stanton (Chair), Sierra Gilkey, Rose Passione, Natalie Herklotz, Shannon Van Lehn, Patrick Jackson, Jodi Simons, Elijah Bunnell, Kori Ebenhack, Rene McKenzie, Rosalyn Mendoza (recording secretary)

Agenda Item(s):

1. General Budget Discussions

Lisa Stanton opened up the discussion regarding the federal relief funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the [Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act](#), 2021 (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

- a) CARES Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HERF) I: The majority of both the student and institutional portions have been successfully spent.
- b) CRRSAA (HERF II): We now have guidelines for the \$5.5 million in institutional funds portion of this act and also eligibility guidelines for the student portion. We can use it to reimburse for lost revenue due to the COVID-19 emergency. RCC will be claiming \$3 million to \$4 million dollars for this last fiscal year and for Spring of 19/20 as well. We have between \$1 million and \$1.5 million left over. This money is not for salary increases or bonuses or infrastructure, it is to stabilize an institution during the COVID-19 emergency. It is to replace the revenue that we have lost. More information and guidelines are needed still and there is a limited amount of time to make use of these funds.

Question: Would the purchase of software and virtual related expenses be used under the \$1 million to \$1.5 million left over from the CRRSAA funds?

Answer: Yes these would come out of the CRRSAA funds but it has also come out of the CARES fund, the original federal funding grant. The more we add that is ongoing, that more our expenses increase. We need to be very careful not to add too much as these are limited grants.

Ms. Stanton opened up the discussion for questions.

Question: Would you consider some kind of scholarship to encourage students to come back?

Answer: We could use our own funds to invest in students, as an award or grant to encourage students to come back.

Question: How will students receive the funds, will they be checks? How do we determine eligibility and who receives these funds?

Answer: There will be an application process and more guidelines are needed to determine eligibility.

Question: Is there a document that has all this information in one place for application and eligibility for students?

Answer: Not yet but there will be a notification once we get these plans together.

Question: Regarding the increase in tuition and fees? Could we give students a blanket reduction in tuition in fees to cover the increase?

Answer: We're not sure if that's possible based on the language of the guidelines from the federal government. Under current guidelines the answer is no unless a student wants to pay off the debt. Our institutional funds may be able to do this, but more investigation is needed and we need to decide what the best plan is. We need to consider the students who did pay off their debt even if it was a hardship for equity purposes.

Question: Could it come in the form of a tuition credit?

Answer: No not the student portion but the institutional portion could.

Question: Since it can't be given out to cover the increase in tuition and fees, could it be given out to everyone in the amount of the increase but not as requirement to pay for their tuition and fees?

Answer: Yes this is something we can look into and consider as an option; possibly use a blanket grant for everyone who qualifies to use based on enrollment. Perhaps a dual process could be used where some funds we just send out and then students can also request more for the rest.

Question: Would a student be eligible for the rescue funds if they enrolled at RCC this Summer term 2021.

Answer: We are waiting for guidelines, but it is likely that it would continue eligibility.

Question: How have the BAT forums been doing?

Answer: Not very many people are attending. We would love to see more individuals attending.

Ms. Stanton then discussed the overall budget and will work on projections to provide in the next couple of weeks. State funding is currently at \$640 million for community colleges. There is some discussion of an increase to \$673 million. RCC has had one of the largest decreases of community colleges in the state at a 25% FTE loss. The CARES funds will help but RCC will still lose funding due to lost FTE.

Question: What was the set of funds to help students with the online engagement or helping them while learning remotely?

Answer: There are potential opportunities with CARES or CRRSAA to pay for that.

Question: Is there a timeline for Spring when we will be messaging to students?

Answer: We are still working on messaging and designing a process for the funds disbursement. A form has been created but it will take a few weeks to figure out the process and decide which division and departments can help get the message to students.

Question: If we do a last minute push to get students to register there will be a lot of people who will reach out to advising. Can we handle a big influx due to spring break availability? Even if there is an influx of students trying to register, there are not enough classes available. Could we even add classes in time?

Answer: Juliet Long and the instruction department chairs are working on student's pathways and scheduling issues but there would be no reason for us to push for the influx if the classes aren't available. There will be discussions on how to best handle these issues.

2. Other New Business

None

3. Adjournment

Lisa thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Next Zoom BAT Meeting: April 2, 2021, 11:30 a.m.