

Budget and Planning Committee Meeting
Minutes
December 9, 2024

Attendees:

In-Person: Karol Mason (chair), Allison Pease, Andrew Sidman, Anthony Chambers, Daryl Wout, Edward Snajdr, Heath Grant, Helen Cedeno, Jean Mills, Karen Kaplowitz, Kinya Chandler, Mark Flower, Oswald Fraser, Raymond Patton, Richard Haw, Roger Szajngarten, Stephen Russell, Susannah Crowder, Vicente Lecuna, and Alena Ryjov (recorder).

Remotely: Christopher Shults, Daniel Matos, Erica King-Toler, Ellen Sexton, Erica Bond, Jamella Richmond, Jason Rivera, Jay Gates, Jennifer Lorenzo, Jennifer Rosati, John Gutierrez, Kira Poplowski, Maxwell Mak, Michael Brownstein, Mickey Melendez, Myrna Forney, Ned Benton, Nicole Genco, Rubina Shafi, Rulisa Galloway-Perry, Shakia Brown, Susan Pickman, Yarik Munoz, Zephan Patterson

1. Approval of minutes for September 18, 2024 meeting: The minutes were approved unanimously as proposed.
2. Review of the 1st Quarter Results: Mark started the presentation by giving an update on the Q1 budget. He said there's good news for us- a \$1.9M surplus is projected for our budget thanks to increased revenue/enrollment projections, collection rates and decreased adjunct expenses. Mark then spoke in more detail about the current enrollment and enrollment trends, how our projected numbers have changed short-term, and enrollment outlook for near future. In summary, the future enrollment forecast for freshmen and transfer students looks concerning across the board due to various factors, so the college needs to be prepared for what's coming. Karol spoke of the work the college is doing to secure our enrollment, as well as our initiatives with the DOE. From the budget perspective, she reiterated that we need to stay conservative. Mark shared with the committee the collection trends dashboard, pointing out that we are currently at 89% collection rate, but that number should increase to 96% by spring semester. He then reminded everyone that the costs associated with the PSC contract, which is still not settled, remain an unknown, and there are also step increases that account for 2% of the contract costs. Additionally, DC37 has 3.5% increase on their salary schedules for next year and we don't know at this point whether the state will cover those costs. All things considered, he said that we are still in good shape with year-end numbers through 2026, but after that we are back in the negative, and a lot depends on whether and how much of financial help the state will provide to us. With that, Mark shared his recommendations to balance the budget in the next few years. That included maintaining conservative approach to hiring, and a focus on the potential for the online undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice for out-of-state markets to increase enrollment. Christopher S. spoke about opportunities for increasing student success, from academic, strategic planning, and budgetary perspectives. In response to a question about a possibility of JJ coming off of the list of colleges of concerns, Karol outlined potential requirements and fiscal restrictions that CUNY could impose on us regardless of our status. She also said that there are still a lot of unknown variables in terms of federal and state funding that we cannot control, therefore we must remain fiscally disciplined. She thanked Mark, Helen, Allison, Andrew, Ketura, and everyone on the committee for contributing to the great work the college is doing in helping students succeed. The meeting was adjourned.