



Financial Advisory Council (FAC)
May 18, 2010
District Office Executive Conference Room
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Carl Couch, Gene Giovannini, Jane Leaf-Miller, Jim Neuenfeldt, Jim Simpson, Gay Garesche, Debbie Thompson, Mike Newman, Daniel Corr, Maria Harper-Marinick, Rufus Glasper, Ted Georgas, and Deanna Pritchard

Guests:

James Tierney

Staff:

Gaye Murphy

1. Welcome

Debbie Thompson welcomed members

2. May 7, 2010 Meeting Minutes

After one suggested typographical changes, the minutes were approved

3. Update on additional Federal Stimulus: \$5,461,946

Debbie Thompson advised members that Maricopa received information from the Governor's Office that we should receive an allocation of federal stimulus funds before the end of the FY 2010 fiscal year. In a manner similar to last year, funds will be used to backfill Fund 1 expenditures. No reason was given to Community Colleges for why the FY 2010 allocation was only 1/3rd of the prior year amount.

4. Recommend use of FY 2011 Discretionary Resources

Debbie Thompson asked Gaye Murphy to lead members through the list of expenditures that were prioritized based on member input at the last FAC meeting. As members discussed the list of potential expenditures, Chancellor Glasper questioned the process used to determine what items were put on the list in the first place. He indicated that there was not sufficient information that to enable informed decision making about expenditure requests related to 21st Century Maricopa initiatives. He suggested that FAC consider expenditures for specific priority items which were well understood and identify funding for 21st Century Maricopa without specifying the items recommended. In that way we would convey the intent to address 21st Century Maricopa initiatives, but we would have time to determine how the various recommendations fit together, their priority and an appropriate sequence for implementation. Members were in agreement and thought this was a much more reasonable approach.

The FAC recommendation was to support moving Prop 301 faculty to Fund 1, provide operating support to open new buildings constructed through the 2004 Capital Bond program, support additional funds for disability resources, and the balance would address 21st Century Maricopa initiatives.

5. Student Refunds – Discussion

Debbie Thompson asked Gay Garesche to lead a discussion on the Student Refunds item from the issue bin. In terms of refunds, in the past, students could withdraw through the first part of the semester and still receive some part of a refund.

Now, students must decide within the first week of class or basically they receive no refund. On short term courses the withdraw time for any part of a refund was even shorter -- too short a time for both the student and the instructor to determine whether the student was prepared for the course. Since students quickly passed the point of no refund, they were inclined to stick with the course even though it meant failure. There was some indication that this change came about when we implemented the new SIS. There was some concern about whether or not the SIS technically could accommodate a step down policy that would give students/faculty more time to figure out whether or not persist with the class.

Also there was concern about the payment plan and financial aid. Students apply for financial aid up until mid August, but they don't know whether or not they will receive assistance until weeks later. They can either pay to enroll or sign up for the payment plan. They can make the nominal payment to sign up for the plan, but then can't make future payments without financial aid. If they don't meet aid qualifications, they are stuck owing and then can't sign up for more courses until they pay off debt. Also there was a concern in general about the financial aid decisions taking so long that students ended up being purged multiple times and had to be manually re-added to courses. There was a question about working toward standardized purges.

Maria Harper-Marinick agreed to look into these issues as she has administrative responsibility for academic and student affairs. As ongoing process related issues, however, they do not fall under the purview of the Financial Advisory Council.

6. Issue Bin Items

Item Name	Date Added	Status
a. FAC role/reporting relationship	3/31/10	
b. Membership	3/31/10	
c. Recommendation Process	3/31/10	Became part of 21 st Century Maricopa discussion 4/7/10
d. Communication Strategies	3/31/10	Became part of 21 st Century Maricopa discussion 4/7/10
e. Annual review cost of instruction/review of budgets	3/31/10	

f. New Revenue	3/31/10	
g. Accountability	3/31/10	
h. Role of Grants in supporting Strategic Initiatives	4/7/10	
i. Integrating Meet & Confer costs into FAC process	4/7/10	
j. Role of the Maricopa Foundation and Grants Development Activities	4/7/10	Refer to CEC
k. Fund Balance/Financial Stability	4/14/10	
l. Student System	5/7/10	Discussed 5/18/10; referred to VC Academic & Student Affairs for discussion with related advisory councils
m. Student Financial Aid Processing	5/7/10	
n. Student Refunds	5/7/10	
o. Student Payment Plan	5/7/10	
p. College/District Office Contract Costs	5/7/10	
q. Process to identify potential funding needs	5/7/10	

7. Plus / Delta

FAC Members

Daniel Corr	Gene Giovannini	Jim Neuenfeldt	Jim Simpson
Carl Couch	Rufus Glasper	Tim O'Hearn	Gay Garesche
Bill Crawford	Jane Leaf Miller	Deanna Pritchard	Debbie Thompson
Ted Georgas	Maria Harper Marinick	Mike Newman	