

North Seattle College

College Council Meeting – Hybrid

2/12/25 3:01pm – 4:34pm

Attendance: Kate Montgomery (Chair), Caleb Martin (Vice-Chair), Dr. Rachel Solemsaas (President – Non-Voting Ex-Officio), Andrew Buchanan (Ex-Officio), Alice Melling (Ex-Officio), Peter Lortz (Ex-Officio), Toni Stankovic (Ex-Officio), Neal Parker (Ex-Officio), Kristen Burton (Ex-Officio), Myele Johnson (Designated Staff Liaison), Casey Saunders, Jeff Eng, Julie Lyderson-Jackson, Alissa Agnello, Melissa Allen, Thomas Fuglestad, Emily Rodriguez, Meseret Tesfaye, Nicole Hadisenjaya, Samantha Baneth (Sam), Mohamed Bin Nagi (Nagi), Kristina Shrestha, Roberta Lord, Thuy Nguyen, Jeanette Miller, Toni Stankovic, Hong-An Truong, Grace Sakuma

- A. Motion to approve 01/08/2025 College Council Minutes brought forward by Kate Montgomery
 - a. 1/08 Minutes edited to reflect correct name
 - b. Julie calls for vote on motion and Dr. Davis seconds; motion passes with no abstentions or ‘nay’ votes
- B. Accreditation
 - a. Neal presented the [Mid-cycle Ad hoc Accreditation report & Mid-Cycle Report Presentation to Board of Trustees](#) for approval by College Council before being presented to Board of Trustees
 - i. Request to edit report in removing collaboration between government agency and organization, ‘Solid Ground’
 - ii. Kate motions to approve the report & presentation with inclusion of the specified edit, Meseret seconds the motion; motion approved.
- C. Budget Taskforce
 - a. Andy presented [Charter for Budget Taskforce](#) for College Council approval
 - i. Request to edit document for grammatical correction
 - ii. Q: What is the relationship between the Budget Taskforce and College Council? A: The final proposal that the Budget Taskforce submits will go to College Council in March for their review and eventual approval by April before being sent to the President, then the BOT, for final approval.
 - iii. Kate motions to approve charter, Alissa seconds motion; motion approved.
- D. RAP Process
 - a. Andy discussed RAP process for this year; mostly similar to last year in submitting a MS form for consideration. New process for this year is opportunity to present for applicants to present their RAP submission to RAP Committee
 - i. Q: How will information of RAP process be delegated to subordinates of managers/ managerial personnel? A: Information will be shared with budget managers with caveat they are free to share the information to anyone on campus

- b. Clarification by Dr. Rachel concerning two budgetary processes occurring simultaneously. One process is the RAP application process for one-time funds which is financed through the NSCCF or AFS. The other process is Budget Reduction proposal to balance FY 26 operating budget.
- E. Budget update
- a. Presentation of PowerPoint by Dr. Rachel on most recent status update concerning the budget
 - i. Q: Why do the colleges keep accruing deficits? A: For North, it comes down to a few factors, one being the pandemic which resulted in a significant loss of institutional knowledge, and the other being the CTCLink conversion. The lack of budgetary controls and appropriate business analytics and intelligence resulted in NSC spending on credit cards (with no revenue source) rather than debit cards. As we discover where over-expenditures or deficits are occurring, we would need to use unrestricted cash reserves of savings to pay them off.
 - ii. Q: If inflation adjustments in salary increases are needed, will a budget reduction need to be considered every fiscal year? A: Not really, the legislature has provided funding for negotiated pay increases (COLA) for employees. This continues to be SBCTC Legislative priority. However, the funding that comes often do not cover all the increases so our budget has to consider any unfunded COLA increases.
 - iii. Q: Is North on paper in a better place than South or Central, fiscally? A: No not really as our budget plan which is a deficit is unsustainable in its current place. Concerning fund balance, yes North is reporting some surplus but its very fragile or not sufficient to sustain us over time.
 - iv. Q: Are we looking at redundancies at the district level as well as the college level? A: Yes, definitely.
 - v. Q: Will College Council be reviewing the budget reduction proposals and RAP proposals? A: Yes
 - vi. Concern on accountability across the district on budget reductions to ensure that one college that is 'more' fiscally healthier isn't having to lose staff to ensure the fiscal health of another college
- F. NSC Guidelines
- a. Update on guidelines project by Dr. Rachel; NSC guidelines project focused on updating this [page on the NSC website](#) to reflect the guidelines at NSC. Before, it was called policies and procedures and had the policies from the District and North.
- G. Proposed guidelines for campus
- a. [Proposed policy concerning introduction of new employees](#)
 - b. [Proposed policy on establishing criteria for bulletin board postings](#)
- H. College Council Learning Community Presentation
- a. [Presentation](#) by Neal Parker on understanding the process in collating data on Indigenous students attending NSC, as well as the challenges faced in said data collection