South Seattle Community College

May 7, 2013

Dear President Oertli:

Each year, the College Council listens to the budget hearings and attempts to understand how and why the money requested will be utilized. We sift through the feedback forms from college members who give their opinions on how the state allocations should be used and whether the proposals are sound viable options given current fiscal climate.

This year, we requested concrete proposals so we could make recommendations that align with both college goals and with core themes. Our feedback forms included opinions from college members and we are taking those into account. In an effort to be fair and impartial, we are using the statistics of Essential to College (ETC) and Aligns with Core Themes (ACT) as our justification. If the average of the ETC and ACT percentages were below 80%, we did not recommend those proposals.

Despite the fact that we are in a flat budget year, it is clear that no college can remain sustainable without its people. Based on feedback provided by faculty and staff, the College Council recommends the following:

STUDENT SERVICES

☑ **Financial Aid Rep for Loan Implementation**
Essential to College: 100%   Aligns with Core Themes: 97%

We advocate the loan personnel requested should be considered as essential and hired as soon as possible.

☑ **Educational Support Services**
Essential to College: 83%   Aligns with Core Themes: 90%

We agree that the person who is currently funded at 60% under another budget should be moved to state money.

Regarding the copier, earlier this year, the College Council advocated for copier and printer consolidation. In keeping with the spirit of this campus request, we *would have* advocated that this department be among the first to receive a multifunction device to fulfill their needs. However, we understand that this copier has already been purchased. The request for a copier is to fulfill a budgetary deficit this year. We recommend approval of this proposal as it's already been fulfilled.

☑ **Advising & Counseling**
Essential to College: 73%   Aligns with Core Themes: 80%

Based on college feedback, we agree that student advising is essential. With departments conducting their own academic advising; perhaps this role would function better at the department level rather than in Student Services. Since an academic advisor is being requested through instruction, we don't see the need for another one at this time. The temp position for BTS has already been funded through June of 2014, so we feel that the funds can be requested again if the need arises.

❒ Professional Development for Student Services
Essential to College: 63%   Aligns with Core Themes: 81%

❒ Outreach and Intake Coordinator
Essential to College: 66%   Aligns with Core Themes: 76%

Due to the campus feedback, this role does not have quite the support that other campus requests have had therefore we do not recommend this role at this time.

❒ Childcare Substitute Teachers
Essential to College: 66%   Aligns with Core Themes: 80%

The College Council agrees that the child learning center should be fully staffed. However, we feel that the possibility of outside funding should be considered for this allocation before we recommend it at this point.

INSTRUCTION

☑ **Prof/Tech Advisor**
Essential to College: 76%   Aligns with Core Themes: 84%

Instruction's first three proposals required no additional or unallocated funding. Therefore, in keeping with the College Council's desire to ensure that SSCC has adequate staff to fulfill its responsibility to students and the community, we agree that a FT employee should be dedicated to advising students in Business and Computing vocations. This burden should not solely be on the academic advisors or in Workforce Education.

☑ **Chemistry & Computer Science Faculty**
Essential to College: 91%   Aligns with Core Themes: 91%

Without faculty, we cannot support students. We agree that the Chemistry and Computing faculty that have not been hired due to previous budgetary constraints should be hired as soon as possible.

☑ **Science Lab Technician**
Essential to College: 84%   Aligns with Core Themes: 88%

We agree that our science labs should be fully staffed with qualified personnel, as student safety is important. We support the hiring of a science lab technician.

☐ Labor Center Staffing
Essential to College: 35%   Aligns with Core Themes: 65%

The Labor Center is a new entity at South Seattle Community College, and we appreciate the time and effort it takes to run the facility, as well as the Apprenticeship Center.

Since the legislature has already funded the labor center, we recommend that their funds be used for additional staffing.

☐ Associate Dean for Apprenticeship
Essential to College: 46%   Aligns with Core Themes: 54%

Based on feedback, the consensus is that Georgetown might be better served by a Director role rather than that of an Associate Dean. We do not support the hiring of an Associate Dean at this time.

ADMINISTRATION

☑ **Mandatory Classified Staff Increments**
☐ Tenure Faculty
Essential to College: 88%   Aligns with Core Themes: 87%

The idea that faculty tenure should be an Administrative role was very confusing. The proposal made it appear that for compliance purposes, Administration needed tenured faculty, but we were unclear as to what role such faculty would take. In addition, the proposal was to include classified staff increments. We disagree that this should take place without first considering that faculty; both full and part time have not had any incremental increases in over seven years.

We agree that classified staff took a 3% pay cut last year, and that decrease should be returned to them, however, continued increases should be carefully considered and equitably distributed. If this is a mandatory cost, then it should be supported.

Staffing
☑ **IT and Security**
☐ General Staffing
Essential to College: 74%   Aligns with Core Themes: 78%

All of the proposed positions are important. Feedback was unclear based on the multiple requests made in the presentation.

College Council notes two of the campus priorities that have arisen over the past few years emphasized the importance of providing adequate staffing in the IT and Security departments. Therefore, although the "general staffing request" feedback did not hit the 80% benchmark, campus feedback indicates that IT and Security staffing requests should be filled.

Equipment
☑ **Computer Replacement, Instructional Equipment, and Software**
☐ Other requests
Essential to College: 65%   Aligns with Core Themes: 65%

Computer replacement is a priority and necessary to effectively operate. Updating instructional equipment and software should be a priority. All other requests were unclear for a recommendation to be made.

☐ Goods & Services
Essential to College: 76%   Aligns with Core Themes: 71%

The Goods & Services request was unclear. Campus feedback indicated that additional information was needed therefore this request was not supported.

PRESIDENTIAL

☑ **13th Year Specialist**
Essential to College: 76%   Aligns With Core Themes: 83%

The feedback for this position was positive and it would support additional FTE's from multiple schools. We recommend filling the position.

We understand that many of the budget requests were geared towards transparency for what was already happening, such as faculty and staff members who are already in the process of being hired regardless of our recommendations and increases that were being replaced in the budget. We appreciate being informed. Unfortunately, it made the process more difficult to determine what was a considered a budget request and what was informational. Understanding that this is a flat budget year and there is very little, if any, additional money available, we hope you will consider those areas where we felt that use of the budget was necessary versus areas which we recommended further consideration.

Thank you for this opportunity to give you our recommendations.

With great respect,

SSCC College Council