

July 9, 1999

IMPORTANT!

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents
Business Officers

FROM: Kennon D. Briggs
Vice President for Business and Finance

SUBJECT: Proposal to Address Probable Legislation Affecting the
Community Services Block Grant for 1999-2000

In developing the upcoming budget for the community college system, the legislature sought to provide an influx of new dollars for the biennium; however, for the first year of the two-year cycle, sufficient dollars were not available. As a result, a small reduction in some non-regular formula portions of the budget had to be applied in order to fund the overall funding increases. One of those non-regular formula portions of the budget which received a reduction was the community services block grant. Proposed legislation affecting the community services block grant for 1999-2000 states as follows:

“Ask Community Colleges to spend down institutional fund balances and offer hobby and leisure courses on a self-supporting basis for one year. This block grant would be eliminated for one year only. This does not affect the policy regarding senior citizens free tuition.”

To address the above proposed legislation, it is suggested that the colleges follow the provisions listed below:

To meet the intent of the above proposed legislation, it is suggested that each college expend at least the amount equal to the 1998-99 allocation for community services subject to availability of funds (note Attachment for prior year allocation for each college). Also, subject to the availability of funds, **courses for senior citizens should be offered at no charge.**

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- In order to meet the above provision, it is suggested that the colleges access both the 1999-2000 fund balances for community service and self-supporting. For example, if the college expended \$20,000 for community services for 1998-99, the college would be encouraged to expend at least \$20,000 in 1999-2000 from community service and self-supporting carry-over balances. The college should then determine the percentage of community service dollars expended for courses for senior citizens for 1998-99 and apply at least that percentage for 1999-2000.
- In applying the above example, if the college does not have sufficient fund balances to meet the above suggested obligation for community services, the college should expend dollars for 1999-2000 to the extent that non-obligated, institutional dollars are available. After the college has met the above identified obligation (\$20,000 in the above example) or all other non-obligated institutional funds have been expended, subsequent community service classes offered for the remainder of the year could be offered on a self-supporting basis with each participating student paying a pro rata share of the cost of instruction.
- To meet the intent of the above legislation, the college may only expend state dollars to offer community service courses after institutional funds have been exhausted. This does not include bookstore receipts, designated gifts, interest earnings, or scholarship funds.

If you have any question, please contact me.

KDB/BC/jmh

Attachments

pc: Dr. Barry W. Russell
Selected Business and Finance Staff
Mr. Chuck Barham