



College approves \$11.9 million budget

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Ashley Poindexter was sworn in by Superintendent Roger Wagner as Copper Mountain College's new student trustee Thursday. She was elected in May by the Associated Students Government.

JOSHUA TREE — A minimal Copper Mountain College board worked through a full agenda at its public meeting Thursday.

Board Vice President Eva Kinsman conducted the meeting during the absence of President Liz Meyer. Trustee Greg Gilbert was also unavailable.

Three public hearings were opened — the tentative budget for 2013-14 and re-opened contract negotiations with the faculty association and the California Schools Employee Association — and all closed with no public comment.

"We approve the tentative budget in June so we can operate until the final budget is approved in September," Chief Business Officer Meredith Plummer told the board during her snapshot presentation. "For the first time in a while, we have a balanced budget."

Plummer predicted unrestricted revenues and expenses will meet at \$11.9 million.

Reserves will be at 8.54 percent of revenues. Reserves hit a high three years ago at 22.9 percent, and Kinsman expressed concern that reserves could drop to far below the preferred 10 percent.

"We had support from our constituents to spend down that 22.9 percent reserve," Roger Wagner, college president, explained. "We've taken calculated risks to serve our students, and we chose not to lock the doors of students we would serve."

Community colleges rely heavily on state funding apportioned according to enrollment of full-time-equivalent students, but the money they receive is capped regardless of the actual number of full-time students. For CMC, the cap is at 1,537, but historically enrollments have exceeded that figure.

Plummer is still in the process of closing the books on the 2012-13 year, but anticipates the cost of full-time-equivalent students not funded by the state to come in at \$324,044.

The contract negotiations also have September start dates.

Several action items were introduced and approved. These included:

- No board meeting in July. The next public meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. Aug. 8.
- New bylaws of the Associated Students were approved. "These are not boilerplate; a lot of hard work went into them," Wagner said.
- The college will save \$7,600 annually through an agreement with the California Community Colleges Technology Center to provide electronic admissions applications. The MOU replaces a contract with the Xap Corporation.
- Dannis Woliver Kelley will provide legal services for \$120 to \$300 per hour.
- May payouts of \$450,853 included \$42 for an art class model.
- The three-year contract for food service from Bruce's Coyote Kitchen was "enthusiastically moved for approval" by Trustee Dick Rogers.
- Dan Cain, chief of campus facilities from January 2008 to July 13, 2013, resigned. He will get an accrued vacation payout of \$10,000. Cain oversaw construction the Bell Center.

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