



Free City College Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes **DRAFT**



Members: Hong Mei Pang (Co-Chair), Alan Wong (Co-Chair), Win-Mon Kyi, Heather Brandt, Patrick West, Calvin Quock, Maria Su, Dr. Lisa Cooper Wilkins, Alisa Messer, Jill Yee, Conny Ford, Malinalli Villalobos

Date and Time: Friday, August 30, 2024, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
In-Person Location: City College (Main Campus) - Multi-Use Building, Rm 330
50 Frida Kahlo Way, San Francisco, CA. 94112

Free City College Equity Retreat – 10 am - 11:45 am (No Action Required)

- A. Retreat began at 10:08 AM
- B. Members Present: Hong Mei Pang (Co-Chair), Maria Su, Dr. Lisa Cooper Wilkins, Alisa Messer, Jill Yee, Heather Brandt, Malinalli Villalobos
- C. Member(s) Absent: Patrick West, Calvin Quock, Win-Mon Kyi, Alan Wong, Conny Ford
- D. No Public Comment.
- E. Dr. Cooper Wilkins, along with Micheline Pontious, CCSF Institutional Research Analyst and Kelley Karandjeff, External Consultant continued the Equity Impact and Planning Discussion. Committee members and several staff from City College of San Francisco brainstormed in small groups on “What is the purpose of Free City” and “What features could Free City include and for what populations”.
- F. Retreat adjourned at 12:05 PM

Oversight Committee Meeting – 12 pm - 1 pm

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- A. Meeting called to order at 12:13 PM.
- B. Members Present: Hong Mei Pang (Co-Chair), Calvin Quock (Virtual), Dr. Lisa Cooper Wilkins, Alisa Messer, Jill Yee, Heather Brandt, Malinalli Villalobos
- C. Member(s) Absent: Patrick West, Alan Wong, Conny Ford, Maria Su, Win-Mon Kyi
- D. Member Calvin Quock joined remotely under just cause in accordance with AB 2449. Member Quock did not have anyone present in the room where he joined the meeting remotely.
- E. Did not meet quorum. Co-Chair Pang acknowledged that we did not meet quorum and asked that we continue with the meeting with the knowledge that we will not be able to adopt the agenda and approve the June 2024 minutes.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

- A. No action taken. Did not meet quorum.

III. General Public Comments

- A. Kayla Ramirez: I'm a student that has benefited from Free City. Why cut the funding when many students have been denied classes? Teachers have been laid off, which causes classes to be full. It doesn't make sense to have the funding cut. It's like robbing students of the opportunity of an education.
- B. Nico Mendez: I think it just is completely unimaginable that the city is taking funds from Free City College at this time. How is it even legal to do that when voters pass the tax for Free City, knowing that money was supposed to go to students? But instead, we're being told that the program is over funded. You're causing this problem by not having the resources that students need.

- C. M. Soto: 5 years ago, I moved here. I had to wait one year to become a resident, and I moved from the other end of the continent just because of Free City. Now, I haven't even started my degree, and it's being taken away. If the city government of San Francisco expects us to continue feeling that this government is a worthwhile government that we should trust, do not take one penny of our money.
- D. Angelica Compass: I am one of the few members here who are inaugural members of the Free City Oversight Committee. I am here to ask this audience to continue working diligently to ensure funding for Free City is the full amount that was initially agreed upon. If we get rid of education for all, for all San Franciscans, then we're going against the mission of education as a human right and basic need.
- E. Malaya: I work on campus with Project Survive. That's one of my jobs. I work 3 jobs as a student to afford going to school here. When I heard about Free City being cut, I felt so scared in my heart. What does that mean for me? What does that mean for the majority of the students we serve? We also serve a lot of new students who have immigrated here because there is access to the Free City College program. This is what they're calling for, access to classes, access to food resources. Not one student we talked to said that policing will make them feel more safe on the streets at all.
- F. Sonia: Student, a mother of 2, living here in San Francisco, high living place to live at, and if we had to pay, as we know, we are paying so much money daily cost of living. If she had to pay for her education, she doesn't even make enough to be able to do that. Students cannot pay for transit to get to school, and I cannot pay for food for me and the children. It becomes even more impossible when now school is not going to be free anymore. We have the right to obtaining a free education.

IV. Review and Approval of June 2024 Minutes

- A. No action taken. Did not meet quorum.

V. Free City Budget Update

- A. Co-Chair Pang wanted to make sure we're clear around the program's availability for this school year. The program is still available. Eligibility for the program also remains the same.
 - Calvin Quock presented a supplement to what DCYF presented at the last meeting.
 - Highlighted academic year 24-25 baseline funding will be 9.3 million. The baseline funding for academic year 25-26 as it is currently, is 7.15 million.
 - Provided context on the eligible spending for the past couple academic years including the results of past audits.
 - Reviewed the reserve mechanics. The mayor's office can at any time decide to make appropriations from a portion of the reserve or the entire balance of the reserve.
 - If the committee has any reserve usage proposals, they should be communicated to DCYF prior to the annual budget process, so these could be considered by the mayor's office separately.
 - City College holds the annual funding that's received from DCYF and then subsequently any unspent funds after each academic year that has passed. Each annual audit determines the exact amount of unspent funds that needs to be transferred back to the reserve. and then also to the general fund when applicable.
 - The City, including DCYF, does not have access to the unspent funds that City College holds.
 - The amount of unspent funds that City College holds at any given time is unknown until determined by the annual audit. City College may choose to regularly report on how much estimated unspent funds it holds.
 - There's sort of two pots of money: one is what the City holds, which is basically what City College has returned from the unspent funds each academic year and (two) City College holds the annual funding, as well as any unspent funds after each academic year.
- B. Member Comments:
 - Member Yee asked a question for City college in in terms of how is Free City money tracked because

yesterday's board meeting there was a lot of time spent on budget projections for the next few years, but I've never seen a line item for Free City. I've never seen anything that tracks the money in terms of what's coming in and what's being spent. I'm wondering why there is no such line item I'd like to look into that and drill down more on that.

- Member Messer shared perhaps as a budget update; we could include information on unspent funds.
- Member Yee asked when you talked about projected ending balance is that what you're projecting we're going to have left over, or what we're going to end up utilizing? What's available to use in the reserve? Member Quock responded under year 6 the 7.4 million deposit, that's what we project to be returned to the reserve based on the annual audit. That number can fluctuate slightly.
- Member Brandt shared she thinks students are worried about the change in baseline funding. When you're talking about these figures, how are they separate or independent from the baseline funding, or a part of? Member Quock responded this is separate from the baseline funding. The baseline funding gets sent to City College and after each academic year, there's an audit that determines how much eligible spending there was in that particular year. From that there would be an amount of unspent funds that gets returned to the reserve. Member Brandt followed up with the baseline funding that has already been determined, there's no opportunity for it to be what it's been in previous years. Member Quock responded that the baseline funding for academic year 25 has already been finalized effective August 1st.
- Mendy Ma, budget and contracts manager at DCYF shared that the City has a two-year rolling budget period, which means that every year we negotiate the budget for the next 2 years. Fiscal year 26 budget will be renegotiated in the next budget cycle, which is for fiscal year 26 and 27. The mayor's office does intend to reach out to City College and have a conversation about the future funding. I think this will be something definitely up for more negotiation in the next budget cycle.
- Co-Chair Pang aligned the ongoing conversations that we've been having around being able to effectively and efficiently leverage the resources that are still sort of available through the reserve and balancing a very challenging fiscal forecast. Being able to steward these resources in a responsible way and also in a way that reflects all the different ways that the city serves all of our students and residents.

C. Public Comment:

- Did not state name: I'm wondering what the enrollment numbers were based on. Because last time I was here, you guys were showing some very questionable numbers in which you assumed that enrollment was. I'm kind of seeing this, as it seems to me, like you guys, the mayor is prioritizing policing. I really think that the public needs to see more of what's behind this.
 - The Free City College Secretary responded we shared this in our last meeting. Member Cooper Wilkins added as a point of order, we can respond to this next time because it also includes information that is not present. Co-Chair Pang added that we will take into consideration some of the questions that have come up from members of the public and incorporate it into additional information that we can share in upcoming meetings.

VI. FCCOC Informational Guide and Resources for Committee Members

- A. Item tabled due to time and a member of the committee left.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Co-Chair Pang added the FCCOC Informational Guide and Resources for Committee Members.

B. Member Comments

- Member Brandt wanted to clarify that we will be circling back to some of these items, including the action items, and shared that Member Villalobos had to leave because he's chairing a meeting.
- Member Cooper Wilkins added enrollment numbers.
- Co-Chair Pang added Member Yee's and Messer's questions on the budget.

- C. No Public Comment.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

- A. No future agenda items.
- B. No Member Comment.
- C. No Public Comment.

IX. Adjournment

- A. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM.