

**COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD**

BUDGET RETREAT

JANUARY 26, 2026



**COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
JANUARY 26, 2026**

A Work Session of the Coconino Community College District Governing Board was held via interactive videoconferencing (Zoom) on January 26, 2026. Board Chair Mr. Joey Smith called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Joey Smith, Chair
 Mr. Patrick Hurley, Vice Chair/Secretary
 Mr. Eric Eikenberry, Trustee
 Dr. Nat White, Trustee
 Ms. Patricia Garcia, Trustee

Also Present: President Eric Heiser, Ms. Kirsten Mead, Dr. Jami Van Ess, Dr. Adriana Flores-Church, Ms. Dianna Sanchez, Ms. Janel States, Mr. Shane Pablo, Dr. Sandra Hinski, Mr. Tony Williams, Ms. Cathleen Banier-Goff, Ms. Randi Axler, and Ms. Sonni Marbury.

Reports, summaries, background material, and other documents referred to in these minutes can be found in the January 26, 2026, documents file.

1. Information Item - Purpose and Structure of the Budget Retreat – President Heiser
President Heiser introduced the purpose and structure of the Budget Retreat to the Board.

2. Information Item – Budget Planning – Dr. Jami Van Ess
Dr. Van Ess presented a comprehensive overview of budget planning materials, including:

- A. Budget Status Report through December 2025
- B. FY27 Budget Retreat
 - i. October and November slides (Information only)
- C. Budget Forecast
- D. Informed Budget Process (IBP) Request Summary
- E. Capital Budget Requests
- F. Reserves
- G. Tuition and Fees
- H. Compensation and Benefits
- I. Board Questions, Direction, or Follow-up

Dr. Van Ess reviewed the budget status report through December 31, 2025, which represents approximately 50% of the current fiscal year. Please see the January 26, 2026, documents file for additional details.

Dr. Van Ess, President Heiser, and the Board discussed the FY27 budget forecast, the Informed Budget Process (IBP), tuition and fees (including the technology fee), compensation, and Board direction. Please see the January 26, 2026, documents file for additional information.

Board Direction

Dr. Van Ess reviewed the budget status report through December 31, 2025, representing approximately 50% of the current fiscal year.

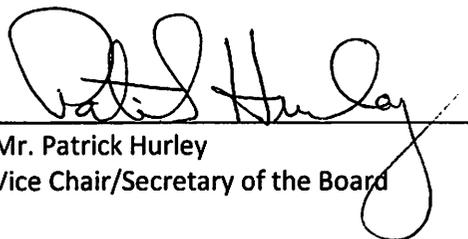
- **FY 2027 Budget Framework:**
Administration is directed to continue developing the FY27 budget using the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) as the foundational planning assumption for ongoing cost increases, consistent with previously adopted board policy.
- **Compensation Planning:**
The Board supports using a HEPI-based salary increase (3.6%) as the baseline placeholder for FY27 compensation planning, recognizing the need to balance competitive compensation with available financial resources and other institutional priorities.
- **Informed Budget Process (IBP):**
Administration is directed to continue refining IBP requests within available ongoing resources, prioritizing requests aligned with Board-established strategic priorities and recognizing that not all requests can be funded in a given fiscal year.
- **Tuition Planning:**
The Board supports a \$5 per credit hour tuition increase for FY 2027, consistent with the HEPI-based planning assumption, and directs administration to bring forward a formal recommendation at the February Board meeting.
- **Technology Fee Strategy:**
Administration is encouraged to incorporate ongoing discussion of technology fee trends and potential future adjustments into the annual Board Retreat to support long-range financial planning and avoid significant periodic increases.
- **Future Technology Fee Strategy:**
Administration is encouraged to incorporate ongoing discussion of technology fee trends and potential future adjustments for the annual Board Retreat to support long-range financial planning to avoid significant periodic increases.
- **Medical Benefits Cost Sharing:**
The Board supports maintaining the current proportional cost-sharing model between the College and employees for medical benefit premium increases and directs administration to use this model as the basis for FY27 planning.
- **Use of Reserves:**
The Board indicated that it is not interested in using reserves to supplement operating expenses at this time.
- **Capital and Facilities Planning:**
Administration is directed to continue preliminary capital and deferred maintenance planning, including refinement of cost estimates and placeholders related to new construction, furniture, fixtures, equipment, site infrastructure, and to bring forward recommendations as appropriate.
- **Student Affordability and Access:**
The Board affirms its continued support for student affordability initiatives, including

the Comet Promise Program, and encourages administration to continue efforts to mitigate the impact of tuition and fee increases on students with the greatest financial need.

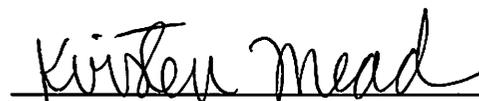
The Board thanked Dr. Van Ess and her team for their work on tonight's budget presentation.

ADJOURNMENT: The Work Session adjourned at 6:22 pm.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:



Mr. Patrick Hurley
Vice Chair/Secretary of the Board



Ms. Kirsten Mead
Board Recorder



Mr. Joey Smith
Board Chair