**BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**BUDGET PACKAGE**

**FISCAL YEAR 2026**

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## OVERVIEW OF FY 2026 BUDGETING PROCESS

The Finance Office will guide and direct the budgeting process. Budgeting for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) will utilize a zero-based budgeting technique, in which every dollar requested must be supported by written justification. The justification is a narrative explaining why the proposed expenditure is programmatically or administratively necessary and how it is calculated. While it is acceptable to use prior spending patterns as a guide for estimating future expenses, it is not acceptable to use this history as the justification. Finance will provide payroll data and select account code costs, such as telephone and rent.

Budget templates for each organizational unit and FY26 Budget Request Forms have been provided to the Executive Staff member who is responsible. Each template must be accompanied by a Budget Request form. Forms for new position requests, capital renovations, new technology, and new initiatives are only required if requesting these items.

All budget request submissions will be reviewed and evaluated by a Budget Committee, which is a subset of Executive Staff and agreed upon by the President and CFO. This committee will formulate final recommendations and present them to the Executive Staff for final acceptance. This committee will also review and consider various analyses, tuition and fee increases, state appropriation changes, payroll adjustments, and any item that may affect the budget.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORMS

1. **Budget Request**
	1. Complete the blue section with Fund and Organization information. Examples of entries include:
		1. Fund Description. For example: Tuition & Fees, Lab Fees, Course Fees
		2. Fund Code. For example: 1282, 1284, 1287
		3. Organization Description. For example: Human Resources, Nursing, EDET
		4. Organization Code. For example: 1210, 5141, 5133
	2. Complete a section for each account for which funds are being requested. Amounts requested must agree to the amounts in the organization budget template. Select a Budget Priority Category (1 – 5) and in the Justification field, explain how this request fits into the selected category. Include any relevant information that may be helpful when the Budget Committee is reviewing the request. Space for calculations is included if providing a calculation or list is helpful in understanding the total. For example, when calculating memberships, include the membership organization, the employee or department receiving the benefit, cost and membership period. Monthly expenses should list the vendor, cost per month and number of months required, followed by the total.

Membership example:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Calculations (if needed) | SHRM | J. Smith | $ 50.00 | Jan 2018 – Dec 2018 |

 Monthly expense example:



* 1. When completing a form for a revenue generating fund, enter the estimated revenue in an Account Description section where an expense would normally be listed. The Budget Priority Category may be left blank. The Justification section should explain the source of revenues. A calculation should be present to substantiate the projected revenues.



1. **Faculty and Staff Budget Request**
	1. This form is designed to be distributed to all faculty and staff within the organization to facilitate and encourage communication in the budgeting process.
	2. Managers should decide which requests to include in their final budget request submission.
	3. Completed forms will be retained by Finance as evidence for use in the HLC accreditation process.
2. **New Position Request**
	1. This form is used to communicate the need for a new position. It is not used to project filling a vacant position. New position requests must include a department organization chart with the potential new position identified.
	2. Complete all fields on the form. Please seek assistance from the Finance Office if needed.
	3. Fringe benefits should be calculated using the following percentages:
		1. Full time position up to $35,000: 40% x annual salary
		2. Full time position over $35,000: 30% x annual salary
		3. Part time position: 8% x estimated annual wages
	4. Ancillary items should include the following *minimum* estimates:
		1. Furniture $1,000
		2. Computer 1,500
		3. Phone 300
		4. Supplies 200
		5. Prof. Dev. 500

Total $3,500

* 1. Additional space requirements for new positions must be identified. If renovations are required to accommodate new personnel, these changes must be submitted as a capital renovation request.
	2. Proposed funding source is the Banner fund (ie. 1282, 1283) or “grant” if the grant fund is not currently established.
	3. Requests must include a budget priority category and justify its alignment with the strategic plan. Also list negative consequences if the request is not approved for FY24.
1. **Capital Renovation Request**
	1. If this is related to a new position or new initiative request, indicate this in the description field. Otherwise, include a general description of the project.
	2. The proposed location is not a guarantee of the final location, but will be taken into consideration if the request is approved.
2. **New Technology Request**
	1. Technology requests should include a breakout of direct costs, service agreements, and any necessary infrastructure cost of upgraded utilities or structures. This category includes new labs, new software programs to be housed in IT Services servers and other significant projects. Use a separate form for each request.
	2. Complete the fields that apply to the request.
	3. Budget priority category and strategic plan alignment must be completed.
3. **New Initiative Request**
	1. New initiatives are defined as programs that represent a service not currently provided by the institution. Examples of new initiatives are new academic or administrative programs. They should not be viewed as incremental changes based on existing services or changes in workload.
	2. Requests should include the following information:
		1. Relation to strategic plan and mission
		2. Proposed timeline
		3. Implementation strategy
		4. Outcome assessment plan
		5. Required resources, communicated through appropriate request forms
	3. All request forms submitted for a new initiative should be clearly identified as part of the initiative request.

## TIMELINE FOR BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Task** |
| 11/8/2024 | Email Budget Request form to all faculty and staff  |
| **11/8/2024** | **Budget Instructions; T: Drive - Workbooks, Narrative Forms** |
| 12/11/2024 | Schedule out grant personnel using actual payroll expenses |
| 11/8/2024 | Prepare Budget Templates (Blank) |
| 12/7/2024 | Email due date reminder to Faculty and Staff for Budget Request forms |
| 12/11/2024 | Faculty and Staff Budget Requests due to Org Managers |
| **12/11/2024** | **Distribute Fees worksheets for review and updates** |
| **1/17/2025** | **Strategic Plan Discussion** |
| 1/17/2025 | Projected Payroll Budget Due; Scenarios |
| 1/17/2025 | Final fixed cost estimates due |
| **1/17/2025** | **Draft One: Departmental Budgets due** |
| **1/17/2025** | **Fees worksheets due** |
| 1/20/25 - 1/24/25 | Budget Committee Reviews Dept Budgets |
| 1/20/25 - 1/24/25 | Transfer 'approved' budgets into templates |
| 1/20/25 - 1/24/25 | Review and Compile Program and Special Fees; Determine Revenue, update budget templates |
| 1/20/25 - 1/24/25 | Budget Analysis as necessary |
| **1/27/2025** | **Review of Draft One; Determine need for Draft Two** |
| 2/7/2025 | Draft Tuition & Fee projection and program fees to Board |
| **2/9/2025** | **Draft Two (If Needed): Departmental Budgets due** |
| 2/12/2025 - 2/16/2025 | Budget Committee Reviews Dept Budgets, Other Reductions; Tuition Increase |
| 2/12/2025 - 2/16/2025 | Budget Analysis as necessary |
| **2/23/2025** | **Budget Committee presents Budget Data (Tentative Appropriation funding) to Executive Staff; Determine if more data collection is needed to make final decisions** |
| **2/28/2025** | BOG Presentation Developed |
| **3/6/2025** | **BOG: Presentation and Approval of Fees and Tuition Increase** |
| March | Construct final budget (including P&L) with Board approved Fees, T&F rate |
| Early April | Tuition & Fee Requests due to Council 2 weeks after Legislative Session Adjourns |
| April | Enter Expenditure Schedules in OASIS (may wish to wait until Council approves increase) |
| 4/30/2025 | Expenditure Schedules Due to State (Firm date will be communicated from HEPC) |
| **4/30/2025** | **BOG: Present Budget; Request Approval, if not received prior approval** |
| June | Budget Approval by Council; CTCS provides forms for budget presentation |
| 6/13/2025 | Prepare Banner Budget Load |
| 7/1/2025 | Load Banner Budgets |

##  BUDGET PRIORITY CATEGORIES

1. Mandated External: This category includes budget requests for costs that must be paid as a result of requirements imposed by an external entity. These costs will be paid even if the College does not allocate resources for them. For example, a utility provider may increase its rates.
2. Mandated Internal: This category includes budget requests for costs that must be paid as a result of requirements imposed internally by previous actions of the College. These costs will be paid even if the College does not allocate resources for them. For example, custodial supplies must be purchased for a new classroom building.
3. Safety: This category includes budget requests that address significant and specific safety issues. For example, a fire proof cabinet may be needed to store flammable supplies.
4. Internal Priority: This category includes budget requests for initiatives that have been identified as institutional priorities by the President, Executive Staff, and/or the strategic planning process. If funding is not allocated in the budget process, it is likely that these initiatives will be postponed until resources become available.
5. Mission & Strategic: This category includes budget requests for initiatives that align with the institutional mission and strategic plan, but have not been identified as a priority.
6. Other: This category includes budget requests that are not assigned to other categories.

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## FORMS FOR REQUEST

See attached Excel documents.

a. Budget Request

b. Faculty and Staff Budget Request

c. New Position Request

d. Capital Renovation Request

e. New Technology Request

f. New Initiative Request