

**BUDGET COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY MAY 26, 2026
DON LECTURE HALL MEETING**

Table 1: Budget Council Members

- **Cari Schwen**, Exec. Director of Fiscal Services (CHAIR)
- **Sandra Bauman**, Dean/CEO
- **Jessie Pate**, Director of IR & Effectiveness
- **Jason Grimmis**, Director of Crisis & Emerg. Resp
- **Amy Kong**, Director of eLearning (ends in Aug.)
- **Vacant**
- **Robyn Kiesling**, Exec. Dir. Gen Ed & Transfer
- **Tod Dumas**, Aviation Instructor
- **Vacant**
- **Patricia Pierson**, Librarian
- **Paige Payne**, Executive Assistant (recorder)

BC Mission: *The Budget Council utilizes broad stakeholder representation to carry out responsible and realistic budget planning that aligns with the strategic goals of our campus and the Montana University System. We strive to foster a culture of financial integrity and collaborative governance, ultimately contributing to the sustained growth and success of our institution.*

Helena College Mission: *Helena College supports our diverse community by providing the paths and tools necessary to assist learners in achieving their educational and career goals.*

Mastermind Discussion Agenda

FYE Transfers In

- Use reserves for Meadow.
- Cover leave payout for retirees from the Reti
- Scholarship reserve funds for waivers: \$71,000 to 12Free, HC scholarships \$28,632

Transfers to Fee Pots:

- Transfer to Computer Fees:
 - FY26 UC4 \$43,700 and FY27 up to \$50,000.
 - This is pending a student vote.

Transfer to IT Fees:

- FY26 Oracle \$13,900
- Internet registry \$3008
- VM wave licensing \$4539
- Fail overs \$1213 & \$281 = \$1,495

Transfer to eLearning:

- H5P license of \$273

Action:

- The total of the shifts to fee pots = \$66,915.
- The Budget Council voted to transfer the costs listed above from the operating budget to the Computer and IT fee pots totaling \$66,915.

Proposed Budget Reductions and Transfers

- A list of proposed budget reductions/transfers totaling \$271,415 was discussed.

- Reductions focused on contract services, supplies, travel, meetings/conferences, capital equipment, and rent costs.
- Transfers focused on personnel splits, communication, building maintenance, major equipment, and subscriptions/affiliate costs.
- Action:
 - The Budget Council voted to approve the budget reductions/transfers list reducing the AY27 estimated operating budget by \$338,330.

Summary:

The Budget Council's main goal at the last meeting was to make budget adjustments for FY27 and emphasized shifting costs to fee pots and reducing operating expenses

- Key decisions resulted in:
 - \$66,915 reallocated to fee-generated funds. Transfers focused on personnel splits, communication, building maintenance, major equipment, and subscriptions/affiliate costs.
 - \$338,330 reduction in projected FY27 current unrestricted operating budgets. Reductions focused on contract services, supplies, travel, meetings/conferences, capital equipment, and rent costs.

If these changes impact your budget, department heads will be notified via email this week.