Bakersfield College Budget Decision Criteria

With the goal of maintaining quality programs and services in all administrative, instructional, and student support areas, those making budget recommendations and decisions will use data and the criteria listed below. All budget decision-makers will communicate their decisions and the rationale with the sector of the college community they oversee. The rationale will address the identified criteria and data used.

Statements and questions included in the discussion of each criterion are intended as a general framework rather than an exhaustive list.

College Goals

The budget decision will be aligned with College mission and ~~goals~~ Strategic Directions.

Core Mission

The budget decision will ensure ~~that~~ the college will be able to ~~continue to~~ offer a range of courses of sufficient breadth and frequency. ~~in the core mission areas of transfer, basic skills, and career/technical education (CTE)~~ Further, the budget decision will ensure BC can continue to meet its mission of providing opportunities to attain Associate and Baccalaureate degrees and certificates, workplace skills, and preparation for transfer with appropriate student support services ~~so that students can move through programs to earn degrees~~ enabling students to complete their educational programs.
Questions addressed include:

- ~~Basic Skills~~
    - ~~How many levels below college level should we offer?~~
- What are the needs of the people within our service area?
- Will students in programs that focus on workplace skills be able to attain gainful employment in the subject areas of those programs within our service area?
- Will students in transfer degree programs be able to complete their transfer degree in less time than before?

- ~~CTE~~
    - ~~What is the basic educational level needed?~~
    - ~~Is the program offered somewhere else?~~
    - ~~What are the needs of the people within our service area?~~

- ~~Transfer~~
    - ~~Do the courses within each discipline that meet the Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) receive priority?~~
    - ~~Do courses offered transfer broadly and meet specific California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) requirements?~~
    - ~~How often should courses be offered?~~
    - ~~What are the needs of the people within our service area?~~

Student Success

The budget decision will improve (or at a minimum, maintain) student success in one or more of ~~the college's core~~ BC's mission areas: ~~transfer, basic skills, and career/technical education (CTE). Student success measures will include items such as:~~ Associate and Baccalaureate degrees and certificates, workplace skills, and preparation for transfer. Program completion will improve through work in one or more of the Guided Pathway pillars:

- ~~Program and course completion~~
    - ~~Identify traditional pathways, such as degree, certificate and transfer, as well as non-traditional pathways, such as General Education Breadth Certification, preparation for certification exams, and employment readiness.~~
    - ~~Consider implementation of requirements such as matriculation and prerequisites to improve success.~~
    - ~~What Support Services are needed to improve course completion?~~
    - ~~What Administrative Services are needed to improve student success?~~

- ~~Critical thinking and adaptability~~
    - ~~Critical thinking and adaptability will enable the student to adjust to changing economic environments without having to continually come back to the college for retraining.~~
    - ~~Critical thinking and adaptability can be measured through program-level assessments.~~
    - ~~What Support Services are needed to improve critical thinking and adaptability?~~
    - ~~What Administrative Services are needed to improve critical thinking and adaptability?~~
- Clarifying the program pathways for our students
- Enabling our students to enter their program pathway more quickly
- Providing the academic and student support so students will stay on their program pathway to completion
- Improving the processes in the assessment of course and program level outcomes to ensure that learning is happening as students' progress along their program pathways. This learning improves critical thinking and adaptability, so students will be able to adjust to changing economic environments without having to continually come back to college for retraining.

Program and Service Sustainability
Questions addressed include:

- Is the benefit of this program or service worth the cost?
- ~~The~~ If a budget decision ~~will not discontinue an academic program without following~~ would lead to the discontinuance of an academic program, does the process follow the Program Discontinuation Process determined by the Academic Senate.
- What is the optimal student-to-teacher ratio?
- Can students' progress through a sequence of courses?
- Are Program ~~Student~~ Learning Outcomes (~~S~~PLOs) achievable?

Facilities Needs

- The budget decision will consider the needs of a learning environment that will promote student success in our classrooms and study-research spaces (e.g. classroom space, lab space, electricity, heating, ventilation, air conditioning [HVAC], and markers or chalk).
- The budget decision will consider the needs of office and operational space for various administrative functions of the college (e.g. employee office space).

Technology Needs

The budget decision will consider technology needed to address all other criteria (e.g. computers, software, media equipment, network, teleconference and videoconference).

Health and Safety

The budget decision will ensure a healthy and safe learning environment for our students and employees (e.g. Fire Prevention and Evacuation, Accident Prevention, Maximum Occupancy, Emergency Response, Health Services, Waste Removal, Utility Infrastructure).

Legal Requirements and State Mandates

The budget decision will ensure that the college follows all legal requirements and state mandates (e.g. Title 5, American Disability Act (ADA) Compliance, Faculty Obligation Number (FON), 50% Law, and participatory governance requirements).

Human Resource Needs

- The budget decision will consider staffing levels and professional development needs to address all other criteria.

- The process for filling any position must be consistent with Human Resource guidelines, funding requirements, and collective bargaining agreements.