

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Budget Allocation and Recommendation Committee Minutes

2.26.26

2:30 - 3:30 pm

MC 151

Attendees: Brian Makus, Virginia Enriquez, Laurie Strong, Nicole Roesler, Morgan Fay, Cassandra Storey, Jacqueline Collins

Guests: Mary Gwin, Eliza Rabinovich

Call to Order

Brian Makus called the meeting to order at 3:37

Review Minutes:

2.12.26 Minutes were approved.

Ranking Discussion

The Committee discussed the need to reevaluate the current BARC goals and ranking rubric.

Laurie raised concerns regarding the current ranking system, noting a disconnect between **writing quality** and **actual need**. Specifically:

- Well-written requests for "low-need" items often outscore poorly written requests for "high-need" items.
- There is confusion regarding the ultimate goal of these requests and whether some should be diverted to other institutional channels before reaching BARC.

While the committee was reminded that BARC funding is primarily intended for **new and innovative initiatives**, Laurie pointed out a recurring conflict: basic operational needs are frequently forced to compete against large-scale innovative projects, making fair comparison difficult.

Brian clarified the expectations for those reviewing the applications:

- **Institutional Knowledge:** Reviewers are encouraged to leverage their unique campus backgrounds and expertise when scoring.
- **Pre-Filtering:** The current request list is already vetted to remove misplaced items, such as safety issues and facilities requests, which are handled through other departments.

Liza informed the committee that the **BARC request application** can be modified to better align with committee goals.

- **Action Item:** The prompts and questions on the application can be tailored to elicit the specific information reviewers need.
- **Deadline:** Any changes to the application must be finalized **before the end of the current semester**.

Ranking Review

Brian proposed that in cases where a department submits multiple requests, the committee could **award a lump sum** equivalent to the requested amount rather than funding a specific item. This would allow departments the autonomy to prioritize and fulfill the request they deem most urgent.

The committee clarified that while a BARC request does not need to be exclusively "student-facing" (as opposed to "staff-facing"), the rubric requires that every request clearly **promotes student success** in some capacity.

Nicole identified a gap in the current rubric regarding **ongoing costs**, such as:

- Software subscriptions
- Equipment leases
- Long-term maintenance

Because these recurring expenses can make a request ineligible for one-time BARC funding, the committee agreed to review rankings below the \$250,000 budget threshold to identify viable projects for potential funding.

Specific Request Questions:

Replacement of Non-Accessibility Compliant Desks and Chairs: The proposal was confirmed to be a valid BARC request regardless of the ADA aspect because ADA compliancy is already being met within the room.

Tables and Chairs for Adjunct Faculty Request: Furniture is already present in office, is not classified as a “basic need”.

Chemistry Water Purification System: Is confirmed to be a BARC request as it is not a safety concern or facilities request.

The committee intentionally developed a **priority list longer than necessary**. This buffer accounts for potential fluctuations in estimated costs versus actual quotes, ensuring that if certain requests are disqualified or come in under budget, the committee can quickly reallocate the excess funds to the next priority.

The committee noted that while one department may dominate the request list in a single year, historical data suggests that **funding naturally cycles** between different departments over several years, ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources over the long term.

Ranking Recommendation

Following the established prioritization criteria and removing duplicate entries, the committee determined the **\$250,000 funding cutoff**.

- **The Cutoff Point:** The line was drawn at **Item #21**, the **LOFT Laptop Replacement**.

To account for potential cost fluctuations or disqualified requests, the committee recommended adding an additional **\$50,000 buffer** beyond the initial threshold. The following items were selected to move above the "buffer line":

- **Braille Center in the High Tech Center (#26):** Selected because the High Tech Center offers a quiet environment, and the current printer is only accessible at night.

- **Panel Saw (#24)**
- **LOFT PowerStation (#28)**
- **Music Technology Class Support (#34)**
- **Stack Cutter for Printmaking Classes (#37)**
- **Softball Pitching Machine (#38)**

Updated Funding Total: \$286,000

Next Steps

The committee will begin investigating edits to the BARC request rubric and application questions during the **March 12, 2026** meeting. The goal is to better align the application with the committee's mission.

Brian will send a ranking breakdown to Morgan, which will be shared to committee members before PCAB (3/3/2026)

Announcements / Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned: 3:58

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 12th 2:30-3:30

Resources

[Program Review Resource Page](#)