

**Board Monitoring Report: 2.4
 October/November 2010**

2.4 Financial Planning/Budgeting

I hereby present my monitoring report on Executive Limitations Policy 2.4, “Financial Planning/Budgeting” according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true, and represents compliance with a reasonable interpretation of all aspects of the policy unless specifically stated otherwise.

Signed: Barbara J. Bonifazi, CEO

Date: November 4, 2010

Policy	CEO Interpretation	Compliance will be demonstrated when...	Evidence of Compliance
<p>Financial planning for any fiscal year or the remaining part of any fiscal year shall not deviate materially from the board’s Ends priorities, risk fiscal jeopardy, or fail to be derived from a multi-year plan.</p>	<p>“Fiscal year” = January 1-December 31. The CEO’s interpretation of this monitoring report is that we are monitoring the policy for the budget being presented for the upcoming year, in this case the 2011 plan and budget.</p> <p>“A material deviation of financial planning from board priorities” = the resources are applied in such a way that movement is not being made toward the Ends according to the priority specified by the board.</p> <p>“Fiscal jeopardy” = any activity that would damage the financial health of the organization and would result in any fiscal year ending with insufficient liquid or near liquid assets to sustain normal operations, before depreciation.</p> <p>“Multi-year plan” = a plan that encompasses more than one calendar year.</p>	<p>Annual operating plan and budget demonstrates allocation of resources toward means that support Council Ends.</p>	<p>The allocation of resources to achieve the Ends is provided in the 2011 budget presentation to the board, specifically in the cost center budget.</p> <p>Budget documents show sufficient revenue projections to cover expenses during the fiscal year.</p> <p>Tactical plan integrates service unit plans.</p>

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1. Develop a budget without conducting a formal process for planning for the future of the organization	Formal process = written procedures for planning and preparing the budget.	A formal planning process is used by staff in the development of the annual budget and includes use of internal and external data.	A review of the process used in planning and budgeting shows documentation that a formal, written process was used.
2. Develop a budget without employing credible projections of revenues and expenses, separation of capital and operational items, cash flow, and disclosing planning assumptions	<p>Credible projections of revenue = projections that can be substantiated, based on known sources of income and on conservative estimates of revenue from sources of income for which we do not have prior experience.</p> <p>Credible projections of expenses = projections that are defensible based on prior years' experience and projected priorities, allowances for inflation, changes in activity levels, and other known or anticipated sources of cost increases.</p> <p>These definitions are consistent with the dictionary definition of "credible" as worthy of confidence or reliable. "Separation of capital and operational items" = excluding the purchase cost of capital items from the operational budget.</p> <p>"Capital items" = any physical asset with a useful life of greater than one year and costing \$1,000 or more. This interpretation is consistent with the definition used by our auditors.</p>	<p>The 2011 budget separates operating and capital budgets.</p> <p>There is a documented cash flow plan.</p>	<p>Documentation of the budget substantiates conservative revenue estimates, based on prior years' experiences.</p> <p>Documentation of the budget substantiates estimates of expenses, using zero-based budgeting methods with a validation process which justifies variances against 2010 projected actual.</p> <p>A separate cash flow plan is in place and is used to manage cash and investments. A review of the documentation will verify usage of the cash flow plans.</p> <p>A direct inspection will verify that there are separate operating and capital budgets and documentation to substantiate their development.</p>
3. Plan the expenditure in any fiscal year of more funds than are conservatively projected to be received in that period.		<p>The 2011 budget does not anticipate an excess of expenditures over revenue at the end of the year.</p> <p>GSUSA issues a council charter, which requires that the council not project a deficit budget.</p>	<p>The 2011 budget did not project a deficit budget.</p> <p>A direct inspection will verify that there are no debts projected in the 2011 budget beyond the normal equipment lease agreements.</p>

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<p>4. Plan so that organizational reserve could drop below six (6) months of the current unrestricted expense budget for the current fiscal year.</p>	<p>Organizational reserve = funds that are specifically designated by the board as a long-term reserve and identified as such on the Balance Sheet with the purpose and conditions of use defined in the Notes to the Financial Statements. This is consistent with advice from our auditors.</p> <p>Unrestricted expense budget = expenses that are not specifically designated by the board for any purpose other than the general operating budget.</p>	<p>The balance of long-term reserves at any point in time is equal to or greater than for the previous year, unless the difference can be shown to be consistent with a documented board decision to use reserves.</p>	<p>A review of the 2011 Sources and Uses report will show that the operating reserve is equal to or greater than 6 months of expenses.</p> <p>The board has designated only one long-term operating reserve fund which is projected to be equal to 6.5 months of expenses.</p>
<p>5. Plan an asset replacement fund that is not increased each fiscal year by at least the value of the current year depreciation expense. At no time may this fund be larger than accumulated depreciation.</p>	<p>Current year depreciation expense = the decline in value compared to last year, according to the book value of the assets.</p> <p>Accumulated depreciation = sum of depreciation charges taken to date on a fixed asset.</p>	<p>An amount equal to the current year depreciation expense will be allocated to the asset replacement fund.</p>	<p>The 2011 budget projects that depreciation expense = \$1,059,000. The sources and uses report documents that \$593,268 will be transferred to the asset replacement fund.</p> <p>Therefore, I report non-compliance.</p>
<p>6. Plan in a manner that risks unacceptable financial conditions enumerated in the “Financial Condition and Activities” policy.</p>	<p>Unacceptable financial conditions = planning to expend more funds than are received in a year; planning to access long-term reserves for operations; and planning in a way that cash flow is insufficient to meet payroll and vendor payments on time.</p>	<p>The plan does not anticipate an excess of expenditures over revenue at the end of the year and is monitored against revenue, expenses, and the plan.</p> <p>There is no planned borrowing.</p> <p>Planned sources of revenue exclude reserves.</p> <p>Monthly cash flow plans are in place that permits meeting payroll and vendor accounts payable on time.</p>	<p>A direct inspection and review of the budget documents will show that there is no deficit budget planned, there is no planned borrowing, and planned sources of revenue do not include reserves.</p> <p>Documentation is provided on cash flow plans for all cost centers.</p>

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<p>7. Provide less for board prerogatives during the year than is set forth in the “Cost of Governance” policy.</p>	<p>Board prerogatives = all aspects of the board’s governance tasks, including the cost of board and board committee meetings, board development, board participation in national meetings, the costs of fiscal audit and legal counsel to the board, cost of ownership linkage activities, and other specific costs identified by the board.</p>	<p>The budget contains provisions for the board-identified means.</p>	<p>A review of budget documents will show budget projections for all board governance tasks, including audit and legal fees, travel to national meetings, and costs incurred for regular board and committee meetings.</p> <p>Cost Center 1.45 includes budget projections of \$172,990 for tasks that are the board’s responsibility.</p>