



BOARD POLICIES

DIVISION	POLICY NUMBER
VIII Business Services	8.01.02 [1]
CATEGORY	DATE
8.01.00 BUDGET	Adopted 1971 Revised 1982, 2006, 3/2015, 3/2019

8.01.02 COLLEGE INDEBTEDNESS

The vice president of administrative services shall seek to maintain the highest possible bond rating from Standard and Poors and Moody’s so borrowing costs are minimized and access to credit is preserved. It is imperative that the College demonstrate to rating agencies, financial advisors, investment bankers, creditors, and taxpayers that the College officials are following a prescribed financial plan.

Bonds will be sold on a competitive basis unless it is in the best interest of the College to conduct a negotiated sale. Competitive sales will be the preferred method; however, negotiated financing may be used where market volatility or the use of an unusual or complex financing or security structure is a concern with regard to marketability. The vice president of administrative services will recommend to the Board which method shall be used. This decision will be based on discussions with financial advisors, underwriters and/or bond counsel.

Uses

Bond proceeds should be limited to financing the costs of planning, design, land acquisition, buildings, permanent structures, attached fixtures or equipment, and movable pieces of equipment or other costs as permitted by law. Acceptable uses of bond proceeds can be viewed as items which can be capitalized. Non-capital furnishings and supplies will not be financed from bond proceeds. Refunding bond issues designed to restructure currently outstanding debt are an acceptable use of bonds proceeds.

The College will not use short-term borrowing to finance operating needs except in the case of an extreme financial emergency which is beyond its control or reasonable ability to forecast. Recognizing that bond issuance costs add to the total interest costs of financing, a cost benefit analysis should be conducted to determine that bond financing is necessary for financing a project.

Decision Analysis

Whenever the College is contemplating a possible bond issue, information will be developed concerning the following four categories commonly used by rating agencies assessing the College’s credit worthiness. The subcategories are representative of the types of items to be



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considered. This information will be presented by the vice president of administrative services to the President’s Cabinet for its review and recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Debt Analysis

- Debt capacity analysis
- Purpose for which debt is issued
- Debt structure
- Debt burden
- Debt history and trends
- Adequacy of debt and capital planning
- Obsolescence of capital plant

Financial Analysis

- Stability, diversity, and growth rates of tax or other revenue sources
- Trend in assessed valuation and collections
- Current budget trends
- Appraisal of past revenue and expenditure trends
- History and long-term trends of revenues and expenditures
- Evidences of financial planning
- Adherence to generally accepted accounting principles
- Audit results
- Fund balance status and trends in operating and debt funds
- Financial monitoring systems and capabilities
- Cash flow projections

Governmental and Administrative Analysis

- Government organization structure
- Location of financial responsibilities and degree of control
- Adequacy of basic service provision
- Intergovernmental cooperation/ conflict and extent of duplication

Economic Analysis

- Geographic and location advantages
- Population and demographic characteristics
- Wealth indicators



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- Housing characteristics
- Level of new construction
- Types of employment, industry, and occupation
- Evidences of industrial decline
- Trend of the economy

The College may use the services of qualified internal staff and outside advisors to assist in the analysis, evaluation, and decision process, including bond counsel and financial advisors. Recognizing the importance and value to the College’s creditworthiness and marketability of the College’s bonds, this policy is intended to insure that potential debt complies with all laws and regulations, as well as sound financial principles.

Communication and Disclosure

The College will follow a policy of full disclosure on every financial report, voluntarily following disclosure guidelines provided by the Government Finance Officers Association unless the cost of compliance with the higher standard is unreasonable.

General Obligation Bonds

Every project proposed for financing through general obligation debt should be accompanied by a full analysis of the future operating and maintenance costs associated with the project.

Generally, bonds cannot be issued for a longer maturity schedule than a conservative estimate of the useful life of the asset to be financed. The College will attempt to keep the average maturity of general obligation bonds at or below 20 years. In accordance with state statutes, the College will limit the total of its general obligation debt to 2.875% of the College’s assessed value and/or debt services which is less than 15% of operating expenditures unless otherwise approved by the Board of Trustees.

Limited Tax General Obligation Debt

Limited tax general obligation debt should be considered only when constraints preclude the preferred practice of voter approved general obligation bonds. As a precondition to the issuance of limited tax general obligation debt, all alternative methods of financing should have been investigated. Consideration should always be given to provide a pledge of facility revenue to accompany the basic pledge of limited tax revenues.



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Alternate Revenue Bonded Debt

The College should consider alternate revenue bonds when it is seeking a funding source other than property tax revenue.

The College should provide adequate debt service coverage. Projected annual revenues pledged to debt service should be at least 1.25 times the annual debt service costs.

Short Term Financing/Capital Lease Debt

Short-term financing or capital lease debt will be considered to finance certain equipment and rolling stock purchases when the aggregate cost of equipment to be purchased exceeds \$25,000 unless otherwise approved by the Board of Trustees. Adequate funds for the repayment of principal and interest must be included in the requesting department's approved budget.

The term of short-term financing will be limited to the usual useful life period of the vehicle or equipment, but in no case will exceed ten years.