



The State Bar of California

Finance Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Monday, August 7, 2023
9:06 a.m.–11:34 a.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The Finance Committee meeting commenced in open session at 9:06 a.m. The Finance Committee moved into closed session at 9:14 a.m. The Finance Committee returned to open session 10:06 a.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 11:34 a.m.

Chair: Arnold Sowell Jr.

Committee Coordinator: Tinny Chan

Members Present: Raymond Buenaventura, Arnold Sowell Jr., Mark Toney, Genaro Trejo

Members Absent: Sarah Good

Staff Present: Ellin Davtyan, Leah Wilson

OPEN SESSION

ROLL CALL

The Finance Committee was called to order by Chair Sowell. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Sowell called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item. The following comment was provided to the committee:

1. Benjamin Kohn
Benjamin Kohn spoke about an issue regarding Formsite, the portal in which the public may submit public comment, and its lack of accessibility features. Mr. Kohn also spoke about a public records release in which some of the public comments received through Formsite were not received timely by the State Bar. Mr. Kohn also voiced his concerns about the budget amendment item on the agenda, specifically about how the public records division should be receiving more staffing. Mr. Kohn spoke about the importance of timely responses to public records requests so that public comments are effective and in time.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Sowell provided an oral report on the meeting flow.

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Proposed 2023 General Fund Budget Amendment

RESOLVED, that the Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the 2023 Proposed Budget Amendment, including the adjustment in the budgeted vacancy rate from 15 percent to 8 percent, in the form presented this day before the Board, for the period ended August 31, 2023.

Moved by Toney, seconded by Buenaventura

Ayes – (4) Buenaventura, Toney, Trejo, Sowell

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Good

Motion carries.

RESOLVED, that the Finance Committee recommends as part of the 2023 recommended budget amendments, that the Board of Trustees amend its legislative priorities to include provisions allowing the State Bar to use excess Client Security Fund and Lawyer Assistance Program reserves to support General Fund operations and authorizes staff to pursue all other options for addressing the projected budget deficit arising from the 2023 budget amendments.

Moved by Toney, seconded by Buenaventura

Ayes – (4) Buenaventura, Toney, Trejo, Sowell

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Good

Motion carries.

ADJOURN