

**From:** [Melinda Wilde](#)  
**To:** [Kattie Riggs](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for CCC Budget Committee meeting May 20, 2026  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 6, 2026 5:37:46 PM

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Dear Members of the Budget Committee,

Last year, CCC administrators proposed eliminating five automotive courses that had been offered for more than 35 years. They were actually eliminated before the proposal was presented to this Budget committee but you were not informed of that fact last May, so that you and the public believed your consideration and approval was required. The stated justification was that many students used senior tuition waivers and that the courses did not lead to degrees, certificates or careers. Administrators also told you these cuts were necessary to reduce the budget deficit.

You were not told that under ORS 341.518, seniors may only use a waiver if seats remain after full-tuition-paying students enroll. That means senior waivers do not reduce revenue and cannot cause a class to run at a deficit, because a class would not run if it did not have enough full-tuition seats filled. CCC did not provide this statutory context when presenting the justification for eliminating these courses last year.

Many of these courses were in fact used by CCC students as electives in multiple non-automotive degree and certificate programs, and by high-school students through CCC's partnership programs. Those high-school programs are not intended to lead to degrees, but to provide access to automotive education that many high schools cannot offer, thereby providing value to the community.

When members of the public asked for financial data, CCC provided only an incomplete analysis the *costs* of eliminating the courses. CCC did not provide you with the *revenue* those courses generated. In fact, the courses produced net positive revenue for the general budget and for the materials fee budget. Eliminating them did not reduce the deficit and CCC's deficit has increased since the cuts were made.

I urge the committee to request complete financial data — both costs and revenues — before accepting any representation about the financial impact of program reductions. I also ask you to consider reinstating these historically revenue-producing courses and to evaluate whether reductions should instead come from non-revenue-producing positions that were added during the temporary COVID-funding period and are no longer sustainable.

Yes, I am a plaintiff in litigation concerning the discriminatory impact from the elimination of these courses. But the broader issue goes beyond that case. CCC's long-term sustainability depends on transparent budgeting, accurate financial analysis, and decisions that reflect the needs of the community the college is meant to serve. You are the only voice representing the community which has so far been ignored and silenced by CCC, while it favors younger students, expensive athletic fields and jogging trails rarely used by senior members of the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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