To All Members of the Campus Community:

As negotiations on the state budget continue at the Capitol, I want to update you on the latest news affecting the California State University and Sacramento State.

The CSU Board of Trustees voted to raise the State University Fee by 5 percent for undergraduates and graduate professional programs. Fees for doctoral education students will increase by 10 percent. For full-time undergraduates, that translates into a $204 annual increase, and brings the total State University Fee to $4,230 beginning Fall 2010. Fortunately, fees for CSU undergraduates will remain the lowest among comparable institutions, and nearly 190,000 CSU students will not see increases because of larger grants and other financial aid. But there is no guarantee this relatively low-cost fee structure will continue for CSU students.

The board took this action in response to the unprecedented $625 million cuts in state support over the past two years. The new fees will be lower than the 10 percent increase previously proposed for undergraduates. They are based on a State Assembly budget plan that would provide revenues in addition to the governor’s proposal to restore $305 million in one-time funds to the CSU and another $60.6 million for enrollment growth. The board also left open the option of revisiting fee levels in November if the state does not fully fund the proposed budget.

There are also some developments that are specific to our campus that I would like to share.

- The Chancellor’s Office has approved Sacramento State’s application for campus-level enrollment impaction, beginning with the Fall 2011 semester. Our campus sought impaction because our current student demand exceeds our funded capacity. We simply have more qualified applicants than we have state funding to accommodate. It is important to note that fully qualified students from our local area for admission will not be affected by campus-level impaction. They will be admitted as they always have. This includes qualified students from the Los Rios Community College campuses and area high schools. For students outside our area, the campus will apply additional criteria for admission.

- Last week, the state Legislative Analyst’s Office visited Sacramento State, and we presented information on our philosophy and model for enrollment management, along with the data-driven reasons we needed to seek impaction. Vice President for Student Affairs Lori Varlotta, Provost Joseph Sheley and their staff explained our campus’s success in meeting our annual enrollment target, which has allowed us to be more efficient in terms of serving students as state support has waned.
• Representatives from the University and the California State Employees Union have finished the meet-and-confer process regarding the campus layoffs we announced in May and come to an understanding under the collective bargaining agreement.

• University Enterprises, Inc., has been notified of the results of the audit by the California Attorney General’s Office, which began in November 2009 and sought information on financial transactions, including the purchase and lease of Folsom Hall. UEI complied with all the requests of the audit, and as a result the Attorney General’s Office has now closed the audit and will take no further action.

• Last week, I served as a panelist during a crisis communications workshop with CSU officials and my fellow campus presidents. We also addressed the issue of advocacy and how we can better ensure that our message – the critical need to reinvest in public higher education in California – is heard by state leaders. These issues are growing in importance for the CSU – and especially at our campus, given our proximity to the State Capitol. As such, we will be reorganizing our communications and governmental relations units to better coordinate our advocacy efforts. Details are still being worked out, but we will combine some communication and advocacy functions now being performed by the offices of Governmental and Civic Affairs, and Public Affairs. University Advancement will retain Development, Alumni Relations, marketing and publications. This reorganization will better position our campus to respond to emerging issues at the State Capitol, and it will enhance our efforts to highlight the great teaching and learning that is the hallmark of Sacramento State.

I will continue to keep you posted as to any new developments on the budget and on the campus. Thank you for your continued dedication and hard work.

Sincerely,

Alexander Gonzalez
President