Message from the President

President Alexander Gonzalez

Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 12:41 PM
To: csus-faculty-everyone; csus-staff-everyone

To All Members of the Campus Community:

As discussions about the state and CSU budget issues continue to be at the forefront, I want to give you an update on where we are in the budget process for Sacramento State. On advice of the University Budget Advisory Committee (UBAC), I sent a Budget Call out in January and asked the Provost and Vice Presidents to consult within each of their divisions to develop budget scenarios over the next two years. The Call asked each division to support the University's Strategic Goals, especially the most important goal of meeting enrollment targets and improving student retention and graduation rates, in a manner that would allow us to right-size the University's allocation of resources given what we knew about the projected budget for the University. I knew then that this would be an important and painful process for the campus, but one that was necessary if we were to develop workable solutions.

I am pleased to report that through the efforts and support of many, including the Faculty Senate, the Budget Call has generated discussions that have reached deep within each division, something that is, I believe, unprecedented on this campus. Also the Provost and Vice Presidents are sharing and discussing their budget scenarios with each other as they jointly consider the allocation of our resources to meet the Strategic Goals. Although discussions at this many levels are often difficult and the issues complex, your involvement in these matters is critical to developing a first-hand, shared sense of the challenges we face.

I've forwarded to the University Budget Advisory Committee the 'first-pass' responses to the Budget Call from each division. Since the state budget process begins in earnest in May with the revised estimate of state revenues, we can anticipate divisions will continue to refine these first-pass responses between June and August as the budget picture begins to take shape and then solidifies. Last week the Cabinet and UBAC met to discuss shared concerns for crafting budget recommendations to me that will support our enrollment targets and still deal seriously with the projected structural budget gap. UBAC and individual Cabinet members will continue those discussions over the next several weeks. The discussion within and between divisions to further develop and refine budget plans will continue this semester and throughout the summer. I encourage you to participate in your department budget discussions as much as possible. The best solutions are those we craft together.

I invite you to join me for the Budget Briefing on Thursday, April 24 from 12:00-1:00 in the University Union Ballroom to review the preliminary recommendations that have emerged from our budget process.

Sincerely,

Alexander Gonzalez

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