President's Message

President Alexander Gonzalez

Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2007 5:11 PM
To: csus-faculty-everyone; csus-staff-everyone; csus-cpr; csus-foundation; asi-employees

Dear Colleagues,

Consistent with the goal I set this year for improved communications, I want to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on enrollment and budget as well as to share information on other issues.

ENROLLMENT

Last Friday was the census date for campus enrollment for this fall. Our enrollment is 23,280 FTES and our headcount was 28,845, which is a record number. While the headcount enrollment is the largest ever, the 23,280 FTES was below our FTES target of 23,455. As you can see, it appears that we are slightly below target again this fall (by less than 1 percent). While we have increased our outreach efforts and implemented operational changes that are making a difference on how we process applications and admit students, the real effects will be felt next year. In addition, retention needs to be part of our efforts as well. For this year however, we are less than one percent below our target. Of course, we could meet the campus enrollment target if our spring enrollment is higher than projected because our target is calculated on an annualized basis. We are looking at enrollment patterns for this semester and what stands out thus far is that we had fewer freshmen enrolled this year. As we analyze our enrollment patterns, I will be sharing the results with you.

BUDGET

The University Budget Advisory Committee (UBAC) continues to become familiar with the depth and breadth of the campus budget and address the budget allocation process. Its goals this semester are to recommend a format for our next budget call process, develop a budget report format for annual publication, and become more familiar with budgets for campus designated line items, the auxiliaries and the various construction projects.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COUNCIL

The Strategic Planning Council has been working extremely hard to craft a strategic planning proposal formed through consultation with the campus community. Its members are presently analyzing the many comments they have received from the campus community during the past month and using these to inform the final draft of the Strategic Plan. Their goal is to bring that final draft to the Faculty Senate and ASI Board for comment before submitting the proposal to me so that I can act upon it by the Thanksgiving break.

COMMISSION ON CAMPUS CLIMATE

I also wanted to briefly update you on the status of the campus commission to address civility, climate and governance that I mentioned in my August address. After discussion, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and I decided that we wanted a more in-depth understanding of some of the challenging issues before us to better inform the purpose and formation of the Commission. Therefore, we have asked the University's Center for Collaborative Policy to conduct a series of confidential interviews with a sample of the campus community, including faculty, administration, students and staff and produce a summary memo, which will be available to the campus community. Once this is completed, the Faculty Senate and administration will jointly discuss next steps. Shortly, Faculty Senate Chair Bruce Bikle and I will send a follow-up note to the campus community to provide more information about this process.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

As many of you are already aware, a University Convocation has been declared for portions of October 16, 2007 to enable the campus community to attend panel discussions and presentations associated with commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech 40 years ago at Sacramento State. The sessions covered by the convocation are scheduled at 12:15-1:45; 2:15-3:45 and 6:30-9:00. A description of each session is found at: <http://www.csus.edu/union/mlk>. During a University Convocation, classes may be cancelled at the discretion of faculty members. If a class is not dismissed, students cannot be penalized for attending the convocation. Staff members are encouraged to attend subject to work unit needs and prior permission of their supervisor.

TRAVEL GRANTS FOR FACULTY

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that through University Enterprises $300,000 will be available for faculty travel. UEI will administer a program of grants that will be aimed especially at junior faculty. The application process is being developed and an announcement will be issued shortly for proposals. The goal is to make the process simple and allow faculty to access the funds...
as soon as possible.

I hope this update is useful. I will continue to provide you with information and additional updates as the academic year progresses. Please send me your comments or issues that you'd like me to address in future communications. I wish you a good remainder of the week and a pleasant weekend.

Sincerely,

Alexander Gonzalez

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