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DATE: June 4, 2026

TO: University Budget Advisory Committee

FROM: Dr. Luke Wood  
President, California State University, Sacramento 

RE: Response to UBAC 2026-27 Recommendations for Academic Affairs

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Thank you to the University Budget Advisory Committee (UBAC) for your thoughtful work for the 2026-27 budget cycle and for your careful review of Academic Affairs' budget and operational challenges. I appreciate the time, expertise, and commitment demonstrated by the committee's faculty, staff, student, and administrative representatives.

This year's deliberations occurred during a period of uncertainty regarding state funding for higher education. Governor Newsom's May Revision proposes restoring prior reductions to the California State University's base budget and provides additional compact funding for the system. While the state budget and CSU allocations have not yet been finalized, these proposed investments are encouraging and reflect the critical role the CSU plays in serving California's students and workforce needs.

At the same time, Sacramento State must continue to address ongoing structural budget pressures through careful planning, strategic investments, and operational efficiencies. The recommendations provided by UBAC offer valuable guidance as we work to strengthen the long-term sustainability of Academic Affairs while advancing student success and academic excellence.

I appreciate the committee's focus on enrollment growth, retention, program innovation, external partnerships, research development, and community engagement as opportunities for revenue generation. I also support continued efforts to identify operational efficiencies through course optimization, technology investments, organizational review, and strategic planning. As these efforts move forward, it remains essential that Academic Affairs continue to utilize established shared governance processes and maintain transparency in decision-making.

As we prepare for the 2026-27 fiscal year, and contingent upon final state budget actions and CSU allocations, the University has identified four immediate budget priorities:

1. **Add course sections** to meet student demand and support timely degree completion.
2. **Provide funding for the University Library** to sustain collections and critical academic resources.
3. **Support Enrollment Management efforts** that strengthen recruitment, retention, and enrollment growth.
4. **Address critical staff needs** within Academic Affairs and the campus to support quality instruction and effective operations.

These priorities reflect our commitment to student success and are informed, in part, by the committee's recommendations. While these areas represent our immediate focus, we recognize that important needs exist throughout Academic Affairs and across the University. We will continue to evaluate additional priorities as resources become available.

After reviewing the committee's feedback, I support the overall direction of UBAC's recommendations and their emphasis on balancing revenue generation, operational effectiveness, and long-term planning. I am asking Academic Affairs leadership, in consultation with faculty leadership and appropriate governance bodies, to further evaluate and advance these recommendations where feasible and appropriate.

Thank you again for your service and dedication to Sacramento State. Your thoughtful analysis and recommendations contribute meaningfully to our efforts to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability while continuing to serve our students and the region.