

January 15, 2009

Food for Thought responses

Dear Colleagues,

As we continue to navigate through the uncertain waters of financial turmoil, I want to share with you the latest information as I know it, as of today. We are still being asked by the legislative fiscal analyst and the higher ed appropriations committee to provide our fiscal scenarios in dealing with an 11.5% budget reduction in this year's education and general operating budget and a 19% budget reduction for next year's budget. We are told that at this point in time, these percentages are considered a "worse case", but we must show preparation towards this. With that in mind, we have provided testimony to the legislature for this. The testimony and approach is consistent with the priorities I have shared with you in previous messages:

1. An early retirement option inclusive of incentives and benefits- this was distributed to the entire college before our holiday break in December and has a cut-off date of Jan. 30, 2009.
2. Continued review of unfilled positions- deciding which positions must still be filled to keep the college moving forward, and those that can be put on hold for the next year.
3. Review and consolidation of hourly and current expense budgets.
4. Decrease of out-of state travel activities.
5. Accelerated program reviews resulting in consolidation and in some cases, elimination. Based upon enrollment trends, job and workforce projections, supply of graduates vs. demand, the following programs have been alerted for potential elimination:
 - Electronics
 - Environmental Technology
 - Electrical & Instrumentation Tech

As with any program substantive change such as elimination, we will provide an organized "teach-out" plan for students, and informed advising protocol guiding potential students into alternative programs of interest, and a structured approach to the phase out. When and if these decisions need to be made, you will all be informed in a coordinated effort through the VP of Instruction, Dr. Peterson. It is important to note that no programs have been closed at this point.

I appreciate the thoughtful and creative ideas so many of you have shared through our "Food for Thought" lunches and have attached a summary of your ideas for all to review. Should you have further ideas or wish to support any of the suggestions, please do so with your respective vice president who will compile your feedback to share with the executive cabinet for final results. Your willingness to look within your own areas of the college and suggest

helpful and/or efficient strategies is greatly appreciated and I remain confident that we will emerge from this financial crisis stronger than we ever have been.

I want to also share with you the efforts of redesigning the administrative areas of the college as well. We have cancelled this year's President's Art Show for the community, along with the 60th Gala celebration for our college that was to be held in January for the community. We will be consolidating the celebration with our annual "Evening of Honor" this spring. Further, we will be eliminating two associate vice presidents, eliminating 2 of the 3 regional director positions, and consolidating several department chair positions along with several student support positions. All departments, from athletics to welding (we don't have a zoology dept to make it A-Z), are working to define cuts and collaborations of efficiencies.

Although these decisions are most difficult, we must continue to reposition many of our resources to maximize our ability to keep access open for the many students who are coming through our doors. We must also position support to keep these students moving forward until they reach their goals. Thank you for your help.

Most Sincerely,

President Bioteau