

**From:** AFA  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2009 3:57 PM  
**To:** DL.STAFF.FAC.ALL  
**Subject:** AFA Budget Issues Update #3

Colleagues,

As you read this message the State of California still has no budget for fiscal year 2009-10, and the deadline has passed for making adjustments to the 2008-09 budget. What this means for Santa Rosa Junior College is still uncertain. The Legislature and the Governor are still actively fighting about whether or not the next budget will include further cuts to education, cuts over and above the drastic cuts the Governor announced in May. And to make matters worse the beginning of the new fiscal years means that no cuts can be made to money that has already been encumbered or spent, creating an even bigger hole in all segments of the next budget. The Governor and the Legislature have yet again squandered the opportunity to save what little cushion they have to work with to help restore our programs.

The only good news seems to be that without a budget student fees will remain at the current level until the Legislature and the Governor see fit to increase them in an approved budget.

Many of the legislative discussion items related to California Community College center on severe cuts to the categorical items such as EOPS, Matriculation, DSPS, and Part-time office hours, and the part-time medical benefits program. Most of the proposals have targeted these programs for 45 to 55% in reductions over the 2008-09 budget levels. Cuts to general apportionment are also under discussion since state revenues and local property tax revenues continue to decline as a result of the general downturn in the US economy. Mortgage foreclosures and credit lines defaulting at record levels also add to the grim economic picture in California especially. This is all to say that the budget crisis here at SRJC is not a local problem—it's part of a much bigger and more complicated

economic problem that continues to ripple through all parts of our lives and our students' lives.

PLEASE CALL THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND ANY AND ALL LEGISLATORS TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THEIR PERFORMANCE AND THE NEED TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES. For those numbers go to the AFA Website at [www.santarosa.edu/afa](http://www.santarosa.edu/afa) <<http://www.santarosa.edu/afa>> and click on the "Advocacy" button on the left-hand side of the home page. Most offices are not accepting email, so a phone call is the only way to contact them with certainty.

AFA is holding a special meeting tomorrow starting at 2:30 p.m. in Doyle Library 4246. Please make the time to attend the meeting to express your opinions about how SRJC can address the budget crisis. The AFA Council will hear Member Concerns for the first 30 to 60 minutes, and then we will go into Closed Session to discuss the current state of negotiations. The Closed Session is a requirement because the ground rules that the District and AFA agreed upon at the beginning of this negotiations cycle require confidentiality until we reach agreement on any particular item. The AFA Negotiating Team will be meeting with the District on Monday, July 13 so it is essential that the Team and the Council discuss the many possible alternatives tomorrow in order to have time to formulate proposals.

Janet McCulloch  
AFA Chief Negotiating Officer