

**From:** AFA  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 5:07 PM  
**To:** DL.STAFF.FAC.ALL  
**Subject:** AFA Budget Issues Update #4

Colleagues--

This email is the latest of the weekly series of summer updates from AFA on the current budget situation. Previous updates can be found at [http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Budget\\_Crisis.shtml](http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Budget_Crisis.shtml) .

### **State Budget Update**

Since the previous AFA update last Tuesday, not much has changed with the State budget. Yesterday, however, some sources indicated that the legislature may be inching closer to resolving the budget issue, although big questions still revolve around the provisions of Proposition 98, the initiative that determines funding for K-12 and community colleges in California ([http://www.lao.ca.gov/2009/edu/prop98\\_primer/prop98\\_primer.aspx](http://www.lao.ca.gov/2009/edu/prop98_primer/prop98_primer.aspx) ).

The bad news is that State revenues continue to erode and, even though the outlook for 2009-10 appears grim, the financial climate for 2010-11 and 2011-12 looks even more dismal. The potential for additional cuts to California Community Colleges in those outlying years is becoming more of a reality every day. The good news is that today President Obama introduced a landmark proposal to provide new federal support for community colleges. (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/Investing-in-Education-The-American-Graduation-Initiative/> )

Now is the time to write your State legislators and the governor. Tell them they must provide the necessary funding to California community colleges. Your advocacy is essential to pressure the governor to do the right thing. You can find out how to contact your assembly member and state senator

on the AFA website,  
<http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/advocacy.shtml> . Please cc AFA, so that your email or letter may be posted on the AFA website, and used as an example letter by others.

## **Negotiations Update**

AFA and the District continue to meet on a regular basis throughout the summer. Obviously, the primary topics have been the budget, what can be done to provide access for our students to a quality education, and how to protect the ongoing quality of our instructional and support programs. The considerations under discussion have been:

- *Schedule reduction.* The District already has exercised its right to reduce the Fall '09 schedule. Their target was 18% of the proof 2 schedule. (The details of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covering the schedule restructuring are at [http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Misc/email\\_afa\\_061609.pdf](http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Misc/email_afa_061609.pdf) .)
- *Salary reduction by mandatory furlough.* The details of a possible 2009-10 reduction of faculty salary by a mandatory furlough of up to two days were covered in the *Budget Update* of June 30 ([http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Misc/email\\_afa\\_063009.pdf](http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Misc/email_afa_063009.pdf)). This consideration is still in the research stage; nothing definite has been agreed to yet.
- *Voluntary reduction of salary.* This consideration is a college-wide proposal to allow those employees who wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to help preserve the College's programs. You should hear more about this proposal in the near future.

AFA's primary interest is that any considerations made by faculty must be for the sole purpose of adding sections and supporting the instructional program of the college. It's also AFA's interest that this process be transparent and verifiable.

If you would like your thoughts on these upcoming decisions to be heard, you can email the AFA office ([afa@santarosa.edu](mailto:afa@santarosa.edu)) using your college email account (@santarosa.edu) with *SUBJECT: Faculty Comment*. Upon request, your comments will be posted on the AFA website [http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Budget\\_Crisis.shtml](http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Budget_Crisis.shtml) .

It's extremely important that you, as a faculty member, stay informed on both the State's budget situation and the events of negotiations as they unfold. AFA will continue to email updates over the next several weeks, so stay tuned.

--Warren

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