

From: AFA
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2009 11:11 AM
To: DL.STAFF.FAC.ALL
Subject: AFA Budget Issues Update #5

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

This message is part of AFA's ongoing effort to keep you apprised of what is happening to state funding for SRJC. Yesterday Governor Schwarzenegger announced that he and the legislative leadership had reached agreement on a budget deal that could go to the Assembly and the Senate on Thursday for a vote. Although he and the rest of the Big Five refused to give any details until the legislators had been briefed, the one positive element is that the deal does not include suspension of the Proposition 98 minimum funding guarantee. The proposed budget does, however, include significant cuts to the California Community College Budget (\$724 million) and does raise student fees from \$20.00 to \$26.00 per unit effective this fall semester.

Now on Wednesday the deal seems to be falling apart primarily because local governments are planning to sue the state if the budget includes \$4 billion in cuts to their funding. The Republicans are also unhappy about \$1.2 billion in cuts to prison spending that might result in early release for many prisoners.

In previous messages we have asked that you contact the governor and your legislators to solicit support for community colleges. AFA believes that any advocacy on behalf of the CCC is still important, but it may be that the governor and Republican legislators need to hear that increasing taxes is a viable option that should not be off the table in these crucial negotiations.

For information about how to call or write to the governor or the legislature, go to <http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/advocacy.shtml>

AFA and the District continue to meet to discuss how best to deal with the budget crisis, but until we have a clearer picture of how the budget will affect our funding, it is difficult to plan for the 2009-10 budget year. Depending on the final version of the state budget SRJC will be losing

as much as \$7 million from our annual budget of \$151 million.
Supplementing that shortfall will require a combination of measures not
all of which are negotiable.

If you are responding to this message, please respond directly and not
to Reply All.

Thanks,
Janet McCulloch
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