

From: AFA
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2009 10:07 AM
To: DL.STAFF.FAC.ALL
Subject: AFA Budget Issues Update #6

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 .

State Budget Update

Last night the Governor signed the 2009-10 budget package passed last Friday by the Senate and Assembly. This package of thirty-one bills calls for \$15.3 billion in cuts, \$4.0 billion in additional fees and revenue enhancements, \$2.1 billion in new borrowing, and a few other questionable solutions, such as moving the State's June 30, 2010 payday to July 1, 2010 to "save" about \$1 billion on this year's budget. Between the constant erosion of State revenue and the lack of substantive solutions in the agreement, this budget most likely will be obsolete before the ink is dry on the Governor's signature.

How this new budget will affect community colleges in general and SRJC in particular is still not completely clear at this point. Certain outcomes were not unexpected (no growth funding, no COLA, increase in student unit fees, etc). The significant cuts announced earlier to our Fall class schedule and to our instructional programs will remain, and the outlook for subsequent semesters still appears to be grim. AFA continues to meet with the District over the summer to protect the interests of all faculty and the interests of our students during these challenging times.

You can find more details of the revised State Budget and how it affects SRJC at

http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Misc/CCCCO_Budget_Update_07_28_09.pdf and

http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Misc/League_Budget_Update_07_28_09.pdf .

Fall Semester And Students

The reduction in the Fall schedule is having a profound effect on our students. Because they won't get the classes they need, many students will be faced with postponing transfer or finishing certificates one or more semesters. Students turned away from the CSU and UC systems will increase the competition for seats in sections at SRJC. Increased unit costs and a drastically reduced Doyle Scholarship program will strain their personal budgets.

There are actions we can take as faculty to make this semester a little less daunting for our students.

- Take students above the class size maximum. Consider voluntarily adding two or three students above the maximum class size in each of your sections. Often, getting into one section at one particular time makes the difference in whether a student can go to college and still work to support herself.
- Donate to Bridging the Doyle. If you haven't done so already, consider going to <http://www.santarosa.edu/bridging-the-doyle/> and making a contribution. All funds go directly to our students. Each dollar spent on community college education eventually returns three dollars to the State in revenue, so think of it also as an investment on future faculty salaries.

- Advocate for your students. Your State legislators and the Governor need to hear from you why they must provide the necessary funding for California community colleges to serve our students. You can find out how to contact your Assembly Member and State Senator at the AFA website,
<http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/advocacy.shtml> .

If you would like your thoughts on current events to become part of the public record, you can email the AFA office (afa@santarosa.edu) using your college email account (@santarosa.edu) with SUBJECT: Faculty Comment. Your comments will be posted on the AFA website http://www.santarosa.edu/afa/Budget_Crisis.shtml .

--Warren

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