

## Chancellor outlines contingency plan for \$1 billion cut to CSU

California State University officials laid out a budget contingency plan of action to address an "all cuts" budget that potentially could reduce state support for the CSU by \$1 billion. Calling it a "scorched earth budget that would devastate the institution," CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed told the board on Tuesday, May 10, that such a drastic budget cut would have long-lasting consequences.

"There are no good options, only extreme choices," said Reed. "But, we need to ensure that our students still receive a quality education, that we preserve the institution, and that a degree from the CSU maintains value.

"We are actively working to avert further cuts to the university," continued Reed, "and have been aggressively working to encourage elected officials and the public to support a final budget that includes tax extensions. However, we also have an obligation to be prepared for a worst-case scenario, and we do not have the luxury of a great deal of time. We cannot wait on the state and its uncertain budget process."

Fresno State President John D. Welty also addressed the trustees, explaining the impact of declining state support for higher education on the campus. Among them are:

- Currently, 80 management and staff positions remain vacant and many staffers and administrators have taken on additional responsibilities.
- There will be 600-800 fewer course sections available to our students in 2011-12.
- There will be fewer lecturers and bigger classes.
- Some student services will be adversely affected.
- Maintenance will continue to be deferred, although some buildings – constructed a half century ago – are on the outside edge of usability.

In the future are likely dramatic changes in business practices that will include exploring synergies with other campuses in sharing personnel and/or functions. A planning task force is exploring those options, Welty said.

FUSD has seen a 37 percent increase in applications to college among its pupils the past two years, but Fresno State has been forced to limit admissions, even of students who are qualified. Welty said limiting enrollment is "a tragedy because in the Valley the college-going rate lags behind the rest of the state."

Welty said Central Valley business leaders are concerned with further budget reductions because they will affect the quality of the education Fresno State is able to provide and will further reduce access to affordable higher education, one of the cornerstones of our academic mission.

As the region diversifies from an agriculture-based economy, it is vital that we have a well-educated workforce ready to meet demands of new industries or our part of California will suffer more than it already does, Welty added.

For more about CSU's presentation to trustees:

<http://www.calstate.edu/pa/News/2011/Release/ContingencyPlan2011.shtml>