CSU Preparing for Additional Reductions

LONG BEACH -- Following the latest actions on the state budget in Sacramento, all signs increasingly appear to indicate that the California State University will face additional budget reductions for 2003/04 beyond the $260.7 million net reduction called for in the governor's January budget.

In budget action earlier this week, Gov. Davis and the Legislature approved $3.7 billion in cuts to the state budget. While there is no specific legislation to reduce the University of California or CSU budgets, the legislative intent is to assume $150 million in additional budget reductions for the universities ($80.5 million for the UC and $69.5 million for the CSU). If the Legislature takes formal action to implement these reductions, the CSU will face a total net reduction of $330.2 million, or 12.7 percent of its budget.

The governor's May Revise, due on May 14, may contain different revenue assumptions and budget options for the CSU. However, the chances for the CSU to maintain the governor's January budget proposal appear slim.

"We are at a point where we need to face the grim realities of the state's budget situation," said CSU Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Richard P. West. "We have known for a while that our resources would be stretched very thin in 2003/04, but now we have to prepare for deeper, even more painful cuts."

Although no decisions will be made until the budget is finalized, CSU budget officials have outlined possible scenarios for addressing an additional $69.5 million reduction:

- An additional 12.5 percent increase in undergraduate student fees (above and beyond the 25 percent increase that CSU Trustees will consider next week), which would generate $104.2 million, minus $34.7 million for financial aid; or
- A combination of budget reductions and student fee increases that would total $69.5 million; or
- A cut in enrollment as high as 3.3 percent, which represents as many as 10,540 full-time equivalent students, and the potential layoff of as many as 1,079 employees (583 non-faculty and 496 faculty positions).

The CSU Leader will continue to report on the budget as additional information becomes available. More information: Governor, California State Senate, California State Assembly, CSU Budget Central

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