



News & Events

University News & Information

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Governor's Budget Impacts Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget cuts would mean an additional reduction in state funding and enrollment for Cal Poly, although specific numbers are not available yet, according to Vice President for Administration and Finance Larry Kelley.

The University has already sustained enrollment target reductions of about three percent and funding cuts of over \$16 million – 10.6% of the operating budget – since July 2003.

While the Governor's proposal contains cuts in both specific programs in addition to a general reduction in funding, the CSU has requested more flexibility in determining where to make the cuts. "The campuses would like to have the discretion to determine where to make our reductions, so we can direct the cuts where they will have the least impact on the quality of academic and support programs for students," Kelley explained.

The cuts could mean another eight percent cut in state funding, as well as a further decrease in the enrollment target for coming years, he estimates, possibly as high as five percent.

"This continues a declining trend in enrollment that will be reversed only when additional funding becomes available. Any planned enrollment growth would be deferred to the future," he said.

Fewer students and reduced funding for the next few years impacts the campus in other ways, too, such as the timing of the several campus projects, he pointed out.

For example, the campus has been planning for expansion of the Recreation Center and the University Union facilities. Additionally, food service was scheduled to be expanded in the northwest portion of

campus. The timeline for these projects will now be reexamined, he said.

Another project that is being impacted is a student housing development on the north side of campus. "This housing project will take a different course but it is alive and well," he said.

"We had anticipated adding 2,700 new beds by fall 2006. However, the Chancellor's Office has advised Cal Poly to delay delivery of the housing, phasing it in over a longer period of time to reduce the financial risk to the systemwide student housing program," he explained.

Cal Poly now plans to build the new student housing over a three-year period, with a phased delivery. "We will continue, building on the work

that has been approved by the CSU Trustees to date – including the EIR and schematic designs. Although this schedule is still subject to change, we currently anticipate that the first phase will be available for occupancy in 2007, at the earliest, with the subsequent two phases opening in the following two years," he said.

The Governor's budget has been introduced in the Legislature, where it will be considered throughout the coming months, with the intent of having a new annual budget in place by July 1, 2004, when the new fiscal year begins.

Work on Student Housing North will continue throughout that period, he added, with final Board approval of the revised schedule requested in September.

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