

Faculty Senate President's Report

Last week the university cabinet held meetings to discuss how to absorb the current budget cuts, which eliminate 5 percent from this year's state appropriation. That means we are losing nearly \$1.1 million of the funding the university expected to be able to spend this year.

There are indications from the IHL that this year's budget might even be slashed again before the end of the semester.

Our vice president of finance, Mr. Greg Redlin, has made heroic efforts to minimize the impact of the current losses. Even so, the immediate cuts to campus departments and services tally up to nearly \$402,000.

The administration is now communicating the specifics of the current budget cuts to all those who are affected. Until that process is complete, the administration will not release this information to the full university community. But clearly, these cuts take the budget of this university down to the bone. Future cuts are expected to be even more severe, and will eliminate as much as \$5 million from the university budget within just two years.

Under these circumstances, our administrators feel it is necessary to target academic programs for consolidation and elimination. They feel this is the only way to prepare for the full impact of the scheduled cuts. And yes, this means that some faculty may lose jobs.

This fall, the University Budget Committee will review extensive data on the credit hour production and cost effectiveness of all academic programs. The data will be used to determine academic cuts.

We must all decide how we will respond to this situation. Later in this meeting, we will ask Provost Lotven how she can protect the integrity of academics and faculty. We will also discuss Faculty Senate participation in the town forum that is now being planned. It is my hope that we will all stand together to do whatever is in our power to protect the academic integrity of this university during these difficult times.

Patricia Roberts
Faculty Senate President 2009-10
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