

Today's Campus.



WITH JEFF WENDT



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Can a university president successfully take a humanist approach to cash flow shortages and severe budget cuts?

What does California's recently-passed 2009-10 budget mean to you and your campus?

We'll have a \$13.5 million expenditure reduction from \$62 million. We expect to accommodate that with \$4.5 million in furloughs and a \$5 million reduction in part-time lecturers, adjunct faculty, and some management personnel. We expect to receive \$3.5 million in additional student fees.

What is the student response so far?

By and large our students are supportive and understanding. They too are taking a hit, and they know the hit doesn't originate at CSU. We are very proud of them.

What time bomb may be ticking for 2010-11?

The real impact may well be felt in 2010-11. We don't know if the unions will consent to further furloughs, and we don't know if there will be additional cuts.

Explain humanist decision-making.

It's a process with several elements. One element involves being in close contact with your constituents. Another element involves making sure that 'everybody is somebody,' and that he or she feels that way. Another element involves avoiding micro-management while succeeding at being well informed of everything on campus.

How will you apply humanist decision-making in frugal 2009-10?

In a difficult time accompanied by great uncertainty humanist decision-making is extremely pertinent. In fact, I'm expanding my use of it. I'm boosting communications with an open forum on campus every month. I plan to increase the frequency whenever circumstances warrant. It's important to cut through rumors and ambiguities enabling people to ask questions in a public setting.

Point up some differences between public and private higher education in California.

There are oceans of difference. Prices and costs are quite different. Perhaps more important, clienteles are different. Within public higher education in California, clientele varies greatly among and between community colleges, state universities and the UC campuses. As an aggregate, the public clientele varies greatly from the private clientele by ethnicity, income level and academic preparedness. The affects on pedagogy and counseling are considerable.

Explain the Seiko Culture Award of Japan.

The medal, which I won in 1999, congratulates me for a management style that begins with humanist principles and ends with humanist principles. The award comes from an organization that believes good talent management makes an organization very effective, while enabling employees to be happy and accomplished.

Where would you like to be five years from now?

I would like to be right here with a larger budget and responsible for a greater recognition of the high quality of this school.