



August 31, 2012

To the campus community:

The 2012-13 Academic Year has officially begun. Welcome, new students, faculty, and staff. Welcome back, those of you who are returning to campus or have spent the summer here getting ready for the new school year.

I've spent the past two months meeting people on and off campus. The contributions that CSU Stanislaus makes to the region and the good will of the region toward this campus are exceptional. I have especially enjoyed meeting alumni and hearing of their affection for the University. Their Stanislaus education made an incredible difference in their lives.

Enrollment figures for this year appear robust. Provost James Strong and Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs Suzanne Espinoza have worked with the Enrollment Advisory Committee and with faculty and staff colleagues to accommodate nearly 8,900 new and returning students in terms of both support services and class schedules. None of this is easy. Predicting how many admitted students will enroll and continuing students will return, along with how many classes they will take and which majors they will choose, has become incredibly difficult in these economic times. Dealing with this "new normal" requires considerable collaboration across divisions, and I appreciate the collegial manner in which everyone has pitched in.

The budget remains prominent in our thoughts. UBAC has provided recommendations to me. Those recommendations and my responses to them are posted on the [UBAC website](#). Budgets are difficult to develop even in the best of times. They involve assumptions about revenue and costs, priorities, and balance across the many divisions and units within the University. I am grateful to UBAC members and to the vice presidents for their efforts in this regard. Since I am new to the campus, I am asking for clarification of many elements of the budget before signing off. I should have those clarifications in order quite soon and will post the budget shortly thereafter.

For now, we await the results of the November elections regarding Proposition 30 which, if passed, will spare the CSU from a \$250 million "trigger cut," and, if not passed, will exact precisely that cut. Of importance, passage of Prop 30 will occasion a rollback of the most recent tuition hike for students. This will cause a one-time cut of about \$132 million to the CSU – not as significant as a \$250 million reduction, but significant all the same. At its September meeting, the CSU Board of Trustees will consider budgeting responses should Prop 30 fail. This will be a painful discussion, but clearly the most responsible path to take at present. We are doing the same thing here in anticipation of Prop 30 results. My sense is that, if the trigger is pulled, we will make it through the year without radical budget actions. Our eyes will then turn to the fiscal year 2013-14 budget.

Meanwhile, we should not let budget woes distract us from celebrating all that is good about CSU Stanislaus: its people – good students, committed faculty and staff members, proud alumni, and supportive community members – excellent academic and student programs, support services, and a beautiful campus.

With these assets firmly in mind, I wish you the best for a productive 2012-13.

Joseph F. Sheley