November 8, 2012

To: The Campus Community

Having held our collective breath for so long, Tuesday’s passage of Proposition 30 means that most of us probably need to learn to breathe normally again. Voter affirmation of the need to keep higher education healthy and productive in California hopefully initiates state reinvestment in one of the greatest educational systems in the world. However, recall that Prop 30’s passage is a reprieve from further cuts this fiscal year. It does nothing to replace the roughly $1 billion that has been cut from the CSU budget over the past few years. Nor will it hold higher education harmless as California continues to struggle with its revenue and expenditure gap over what experts feel will be two to three more years.

Notwithstanding the difficulties we still face, I invite you to step away for a few days from what has been an almost constant focus upon the budget. Enjoy the positives of working and studying here. While you do this, we will put into motion the following:

a) The rescinding of the tuition fee increase that took effect for the fall 2012 term. News about how this will happen will be provided soon. I want to thank in advance the staff in Student Accounts Receivable, Financial Services, and Financial Aid who will take on this very complicated task.

b) The review of applications for new student admissions for fall, 2013. Action on applications had been put on hold by the CSU until the fate of Prop 30 was decided. Thanks to the Admissions staff for the work they are about to put into this process.

More generally, we will begin reexamining this year’s budget which, as the responsible action pending election results, was shaped by the assumption that we would lose about $6 million were Prop 30 to fail. The reexamination must now include attention to a one-time CSU reduction of $132 million (roughly $2.5 million for our campus) associated with the rescinding of this year’s tuition fee increase; it is now considered one-time because the Governor and Legislature have stated that they anticipate replacing most of it in next year’s budget.
We need to plan well, not just regarding our longer-term budget and enrollment situations, but also regarding wise stewardship of the one-time funds available to us to fill gaps. Once spent, these dollars are not replaced. I look forward to working with the University Budget Advisory Committee in this important regard.

Again, thanks for all you do.

Joseph F. Sheley

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Joseph Sheley
President (Interim)
California State University, Stanislaus
One University Circle
Turlock, CA  95382
(209) 667-3201 – Office
(209) 667-3206 – Fax
president@csustan.edu