

Preliminary 2014-15 Division Budget Priorities

Division: **University-Wide (i.e., beyond narrower divisional interests and pursuits)**

General Comment on Priorities of the Division

The focus of university-wide budget priorities is upon advancing regional advocacy connections and strengthening internal capacities across divisions on campus. In general, these priorities will be pursued via one-time – perhaps consecutive one-time – allocations.

Priorities

Priority 1: *Increase partnerships to improve college readiness of entering students.*

It is not enough in the Central Valley to make certain that prospective seniors are technically qualified to attend college. Given that so many of our students are the first in their families to attend college, we need to ensure that we have partnered well with K-12 (probably focusing on middle school) so that high school graduates and their families have been considering what it takes to succeed in, not just go to, college. We want them to start at least in the middle of the pack, not at the rear.

We have begun working with K-12 and community colleges to strengthen preparation for, transition to, and optimization of years in college. As these conversations begin to take hold, we will need some funding for grant pursuit, coordinated advising across education sectors, and so forth. Since so much of this is experimental and pilot-project in nature, funding for now will be one-time in nature.

If we do this correctly, we will progress a long way toward getting the next generation of skilled professionals and civic leaders ready to move this region forward.

Funding:	base	___
	one-time	<u>x</u>
	both	___

Priority 2: *Strengthen both academic and career advising.*

There is strong agreement across most campus sectors that advising is not what it should be at CSU Stanislaus in terms of assessment of what we are currently doing (well or not well), coordination of efforts across sectors, and overall impact of what we are doing. That said, currently there is not agreement on the best manner by which to strengthen

advising efforts. Assuming that this is worked out, we likely will need some seed funding to begin moving us in positive directions. Presently, this will call for one-time funding.

Funding: base ___
 one-time x
 both ___

Priority 3: *Strengthen the writing capacity of students and employees.*

Symbolically, the capacity to write well (in the sense of well-presented exposition and critical analysis) stands as the single strongest indicator of the impact of a liberal arts and sciences education. We need to do better. We need to focus everyone’s attention on what can become an exceptional indicator of the quality of a CSU Stanislaus degree. Transition toward systematic campus attention to writing has begun within the academy and within many non-academic units. As we continue this transition, one-time funding will enable both experimentation and progress.

Funding: base ___
 one-time x
 both ___

Priority 4: *Advance campus community health, safety, risk management, and information security.*

While the specifics of health, safety, risk-management, and information security are best addressed in divisional budget plans, there is a need to raise awareness of these areas throughout the campus community. Rules and regulations notwithstanding, the key to success in these areas is cultural change: the adoption by the community of a sense of responsibility to look out for each other’s wellbeing. Movement in this direction will require investments (one-time dollars in the beginning) in the processes that create the necessary community bond and interest.

Funding: base ___
 one-time x
 both ___

Priority 5: *Improve audio technology in major venues for public events (including academic lectures).*

Nothing takes the shine off a really good event than poor amplification of sound – music, speech, film, interactive modalities. Sometimes it is a matter of acoustics, and to some extent, we can address this. Sometimes it is a matter of poor audio equipment, which can be fixed more directly. We have a large number of otherwise excellent events on campus for both internal and external audiences. For the most part, it is the quality of our sound systems that is detracting from the overall quality of those events. At the very least, we need to begin a systematic look at sound quality across venues and make changes that are within our one-time allocation capacity.

Funding:	base	___
	one-time	<u>x</u>
	both	___