



March 16, 2015

To: The Campus Community

WASC News

I am pleased to report that our WASC special visit this October has led to a much-hoped-for resolution (March 2015 letter from WASC). The WASC Commission has accepted the report and recommendations of the Special Visit team. We are asked to continue with our efforts in the areas of shared governance, strategic planning, and retention, promotion, and tenure. Three commendations were offered for progress to date and, significantly, an interim report scheduled for fall 2015 has been removed from our accreditation agenda. This means effectively that we can look forward rather than to the past and are back on schedule with regular WASC reports and visits. I am exceedingly grateful to everyone who worked hard to make the October special visit a success. The WASC outcome is a very positive statement about CSU Stanislaus.

Budget News

There is little new to report on the budget front. The CSU is working with legislators regarding possible increases to the state allocation to the system. The effect on the CSU of ongoing discussions between the governor and the University of California concerning tuition hikes for UC students remains to be seen. Meanwhile, various CSUs (including Fresno State) are moving toward enrollment impaction which likely will increase enrollment pressure on our campus.

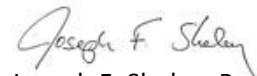
The University Budget Advisory Committee has begun its look at our budget situation for 2015-16. We have definite challenges. We entered 2014-15 with \$600,000 less in state funding than we had planned. We also are in the third of four years of Prop 30 (temporary) relief, and years three and four provide 15 percent less revenue to the CSU than did years one and two. The drop in Prop 30 funding virtually assured little expansion in enrollment, the common mode of increased revenue for a campus. Indeed, we have been given an enrollment target with only one percent growth -- about 70 new students (FTES) -- for next year.

Against this backdrop, I have asked UBAC and the Vice Presidents to examine the balance in our expenditures between ongoing state funding and reserves. Little or no new state funding is coming our way, and Prop 30 relief begins to sunset in a year. We must budget conservatively and approach our financial obligations, needs, and aspirations understanding that: a) ours already is a skeletal workforce, b) our priority is to protect people and programs; and c) in all cases, we strive to give our students the best we have to offer.

Over the course of the next few weeks and, as UBAC works through our financial issues, the Vice Presidents will be discussing our budget situation with the members of our various divisions. Their goal is to describe the pressures we face across and within divisions, to answer your questions, and to seek your advice. We want to enter 2015-16 with the confidence that comes from understanding well our assets, our commitments, and our challenges.

Thank you for your interest and your hard work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph F. Sheley".

Joseph F. Sheley, President