July 11, 2014

To:  The Campus Community

I hope you are enjoying your summer and that your Fourth of July celebration was both meaningful and fun. I am writing to provide a brief update on our budget situation and on progress on a few other fronts.

You likely know that the CSU received no increase to the original 2014-15 budget proposed by Governor Brown earlier in the year. While we had hoped to receive $95 million in addition to the proposed $142 million (a request supported by a large number of state legislators), the CSU nonetheless is pleased to move forward in these still difficult times. The system budget has yet to be formalized for the year, but we do know that we have been allocated 200 additional FTES over last year’s enrollment target. The new target will bring with it “new money.”

On that same note, the University Budget Advisory Committee has completed its work for the year. Its recommendations are posted [here]. I will now examine those recommendations and, assuming general agreement, seek to fit as many as possible into available funds – and UBAC aptly notes that our needs far outstrip our finances. Whatever the final outcome, the posted UBAC document makes clear quickly how seriously the Committee took its charge, how attentive it was to evaluating priorities and requests, and how much work goes into understanding a very complex budget. I hope you will join me in thanking UBAC members for their exceptional effort.

The Committee on Cross-Divisional Collaboration – seeking to increase efficiency and effectiveness in practices across divisions – has produced its first recommendation. They identified two employment transactions (changes to funding source and reporting structure) that could be approved with fewer signatures – and thus in a shorter amount of time. The recommendation has been
accepted by the appropriate vice presidents. I am very appreciative of the Committee’s effort and look forward to further recommendations.

I am in the process of addressing two ASI resolutions. The first focuses upon parking needs, appropriate fees and revenues, consultation processes, and implementation agreements. In response, an Ad Hoc Parking Task Force will be in place at the start of the fall semester.

The second ASI resolution calls for the creation of a “university-wide task force ... to explore, recommend, and implement new advising structure and methods.” I am appreciative of the resolution since I too favor enhanced campus conversation about how best to provide high quality, productive academic advice to our students. I will seek to put this task force together as soon as possible at the start of the new semester.

Again, I wish you continued enjoyment of the summer months and thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Sheley
President