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Sent by: President's Letter
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To PRES-ALL@MTSAC.EDU

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10/29/2008 05:29 PM

Subject [PRES-ALL] Decision Relating To State Budget Crisis

Please respond to
John Nixon
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Good afternoon. As we are all aware, the State is facing a serious budget deficit that seems to grow by the day. The Governor has called the Legislature back into session, with the charge of mitigating a budget imbalance of up to \$8 billion. The word from Sacramento is that the Governor will propose mid-year cuts to K-12 and Community Colleges of between \$2 billion and \$4 billion. Apparently, he also said that such cuts could be reduced by off-setting increases in revenue, i.e., tax increases, which were not accepted by the Legislature during its recent negotiations. I do not know what reductions to current year state revenue may materialize, but I am confident that community colleges will face a reduction to the budget signed by the Governor just last month. Mt. SAC is well positioned to weather this fiscal storm, and the College Budget Committee has been working on a recommendation for guidelines that would inform our approach to any budget reductions. Certainly, maintaining quality programs and services for students and protecting ongoing and full-time employees are two principles that will inform guidelines for budget reductions.

The first local decision relating to the state budget crisis is to place a near freeze on hiring - an action that can result in significant cost savings through not filling vacancies, while avoiding new costs attendant to new positions. We will not hire (growth) full-time faculty positions this spring (for 2009-2010), and the Vice Presidents and I will review very carefully and closely all requests to fill vacancies, freezing all but those we determine are necessary for maintaining essential college operations. We have already frozen four administrative vacancies, and I anticipate that most, if not all, vacancies will be held at least until next fiscal year. A hiring freeze will result in additional work for some of you whose departments/units see staffing reductions, and I appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work together through these very tough times. Should you have any questions, please contact me. Thanks.

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