

## Monday's Message – April 4, 2011

Hello everyone and welcome to the month of April.

Last week I spoke about the efforts of students in our campus chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. A week ago, they competed against 18 other universities in the annual ASCE Pacific Southwest conference event at Cal State L.A.

This competition had a total of 21 events, including concrete canoe, steel bridge, flag design and geotechnical engineering. Your Broncos placed [second overall and will advance to the national championships](#) in June at the University of Evansville. Congratulations!

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Also bound for nationals is our [cyber defense team](#), which captured its third consecutive Western Regional championship.

The cyber Broncos are composed of students from business administration, science and engineering. They faced 20 hours of intense competition over a span of three days last week. In this year's competition scenario, a series of terrorist attacks – both physical and virtual – shut down U.S. stock trading for several weeks. The students were tasked with creating a West Coast backup operations center while continuing to fend off attacks from hackers.

Come April 8, the team will be in San Antonio, Texas for the national championships. We will face regional champions from six other universities including the University of Maryland, Texas A&M, the University of Washington and the Air Force Academy. Good luck everyone!

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I had hoped to make this announcement last week, but it remains great news nonetheless. We have formally dropped the "interim" tag on [Danelle Bishop's title](#). She is now the official head women's basketball coach, so congratulations, Danelle, on this well-deserved appointment. Speaking of women's basketball, this Thursday at noon the campus will recognize the impressive achievements of the 2010-11 Cal Poly Pomona women's basketball team. The Broncos advanced to the Elite Eight for the first time since 2002 after capturing CCAA and West Region titles. Thursday's festivities will take place at Center Court of the Bronco Student Center. I hope you can make it!

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Beginning Tuesday, April 5, the campus will host finalists for the dean of the College of Science. Three outstanding scholars from across the country will be available to answer your questions, so I hope you take the opportunity to listen to their presentations and help the search

committee with your feedback. We have listed the dates, names, times and locations on your screen.

**April 5**                      **Dr. Lok. C. Lew Yan Voon (Wichita State University)**  
Noon – 1 p.m.              University Library, Special Events Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 4829

**April 7**                      **Dr. Stephen Morgan Bollens (Washington State University)**  
Noon – 1 p.m.              Bronco Student Center, Ursa Major C

**April 14**                    **Dr. Mary Syndonia Hubbard (Utah State University)**  
Noon – 1 p.m.              Heritage Conference Room, CLA (98T-8)

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And now I need to close on a serious note. Last week, Governor Brown announced that he had abandoned an effort that would have allowed Californians to vote in June on extending the current state income and sales tax, as well as the vehicle licensing fee. Those additional resources are set to expire on June 30 – the end of our fiscal year. The passage of that ballot initiative would have helped the state offset almost half of its estimated \$26 billion dollar deficit.

The governor's January budget proposal had already addressed the first half of the deficit with sweeping cuts, including \$500 million dollars to the CSU. We are now faced with the harsh reality of additional cuts. The Legislative Analyst's Office is already recommending a new total cut of \$1.1 billion dollars to the CSU, which would roughly equate to \$55 million dollars for Cal Poly Pomona.

While the governor and the Legislature continue to identify ways to mitigate this incredible fiscal crisis, we will not create a false sense of reality. There is no simple cure for what we are facing. The most prudent and responsible thing we can do now is plan accordingly.

The Board of Trustees has already approved a 10 percent fee increase for 2011-12 that will offset a percentage of the total cut. Whether the Board would consider an additional increase has yet to be determined. Locally, our faculty and staff have been more than fiscally prudent so as to protect our reserve funds. Nonetheless, the severity of this reduction requires that we look at two primary areas – student enrollment and the personnel needed to serve them. As I have repeatedly said, everything is on the table.

However painful this process is, I remain committed to keeping you as informed as possible. The coming weeks will involve consultation and recommendations starting with our college and division budget teams all the way through the campus-wide Resource Management Advisory Committee. We will also engage input and feedback from the Senate Budget Advisory Committee. Through all of this, I expect that there will be something new to share on this issue

every week before we finalize next year's budget. We will get through this, while we continue to celebrate our success stories. Thanks for watching.