

Monday Video – February 1, 2010

Good morning and thank you for tuning in! In last week's message, I shared my hope that these video messages can keep all of you current with news and information that affects our lives. I also know that it sometimes creates more questions than answers. So I'll be here - every week - to follow up.

I heard from a handful of folks who were unsure about the timeframe for the proposed 10 percent cuts. Just to be clear, ALL of these plans are to address the 2010-2011 budget and are not additional cuts to the current 2009-2010 budget. The NEXT fiscal year begins on July 1, 2010 and that is why we have to plan now.

This is a good time to let you know that if there is a topic you would like me to address via these videos – or in a personal e-mail – please let me know.

I attended the Board of Trustees meeting last week where, as you might guess, the budget dominated our conversation. The presentations we saw from the Chancellor's Office echoed much of what I shared last week -- a blend of optimism and caution.

I generally present the University Educational Trust with an update at our quarterly meetings. As I reviewed the minutes from last year's January meeting, I had informed them that our projections called for a 1 percent budget cut and a 10 percent student fee increase for 2009-10. Well - we all know how that turned out. It just shows that any number of things can occur before a budget is finalized, so preparation – however difficult - is essential. As new things unfold, be assured that I will keep you informed.

One thing that was formally announced at the Board of Trustees meeting is the CSU's comprehensive effort to elevate our freshman and transfer, 6-year graduation rates, with a particular focus on closing the gap which exists for underrepresented students. Our expectation is to see significant improvement by 2015. This past fall, every CSU campus developed plans with specific measures designed to reach its graduation goal. This, after all, is what we are funded to do.

At Cal Poly Pomona, a faculty-staff team worked under the leadership of Provost denBoer to develop a series of short and long-term recommendations. We focused on three areas:

The ADVISING team proposed ways to increase communication with select students who are nearing graduation. The goal is to identify and remove roadblocks they might encounter and to better coordinate the overall advising system.

The CURRICULUM team looked at ways to ensure that students successfully navigate their education by avoiding the need to repeat courses and reducing the need for remediation.

The ENGAGEMENT committee recommended measures to increase student involvement on campus, financial support for students and the number of students residing on campus.

I am very proud of their work and their innovative proposals. But the key to REAL success will be to frequently monitor effectiveness and make the necessary adjustments. This is the nature of a learning centered campus. I am confident we can make a difference for our students. If you would like to read more details about the Graduation Initiative, visit the web site on your screen (<http://www.calstate.edu/PA/News/2010/documents/bot-grad-%20initiative-update.pdf>).

I am excited to announce that we now have some new neighbors and partners. Southern California Edison has begun to move into its new home at Innovation Village. This will be the new site for Edison's Transmission Engineering Division, also known as the Smart Grid. 375 employees will work at the site, and that number will expand to 450 over the next couple of years. You have probably already noticed the earth moving equipment on the site as they prepare to expand their operation which includes construction of a LEED platinum second building. We anticipate that they will play an active role in our campus community - so please welcome them to the Cal Poly Pomona family.

I have two more notes before I go. We will soon send out a SAVE THE DATE e-mail to our students regarding the 2010 Summer Session. It is our intent to once again offer a self-supported summer school program that would assist students seeking to stay on course to graduate. We are working with the colleges to identify a broad-based number of courses that are high priorities among our students. A special web site is being developed as well – so stay tuned.

I also want to remind everyone to be sure to review the current draft of the Strategic Plan. If you have not done so already, please visit the web site on your screen (https://strategic.wiki.csupomona.edu/Main_Page) and help inform the plan with your thoughts. If we want a Strategic Plan that truly reflects our campus values, we need wide participation. I know the committee welcomes your feedback.

Once again, if you have any questions or comments, send a note to president@csupomona.edu. Thank you for joining me today and I'll see you next week.