Zingg reports on need to cut Chico State enrollment

By staff reports
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CHICO — Fewer students and higher student fees are in the future for Chico State University.

And that will hurt Chico's economy.

Paul Zingg, president of Chico State, spoke about the situation this morning at a breakfast sponsored by the Chico Chamber of Commerce.

Because the state has cut funding to California State University campuses, he said, the CSU, in turn, has decided it must cut enrollment.

The CSU chancellor ordered a 9.5 percent enrollment reduction at each of the 23 campuses.

Zingg said he appealed to Chancellor Charles Reed to make an exception in Chico's case because the campus and the community are so closely related. Such a big enrollment cut would have a major impact on the local economy.

Zingg said he got his answer from the chancellor this week. An exception will be made, but the break isn't as big as the president hoped.

Instead of a 9.5 percent enrollment cut, Chico State will be allowed to reduce the student body by 8 percent, Zingg said.

That translates into losing $46.6 million in total business sales in Chico and $37 million in employees' income, according to professor David Gallo, an economist who also spoke at the chamber meeting.

Gallo said an estimated 486 local jobs — both full time and part time — would be lost in Butte County because of the enrollment cut.

Zingg said there's a good possibility some full-time faculty members would have to be laid off.

The president said student fees will rise by 10 percent at the very least, and quite possibly more than that.