Governor’s budget revision met with different reactions

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Gov. Jerry Brown’s budget revision, released Monday, projected no further funding cuts to the California State University system, provided his tax initiative passes in November.

If the tax initiative doesn’t pass, $50 million in additional “trigger cuts” would be added to the CSU cuts, but if it does, current funding for the CSU will be left intact, CSU spokesman Erik Fallis said.

“Higher education has been largely spared,” Fallis said.

But banking on the fact that economic recovery “is just around the corner” does not serve higher education, Chico State President Paul Zingg said in an email to The Orion.

“I think the proposal is dreadful,” Zingg said.

If the trigger cuts pass, Chico State will lose about $40 million from its general fund, which could cause further program suspensions, a hiring freeze or reduced enrollments in 2013, Zingg said.

“Nothing in the governor’s budget even hints at reinvestment,” Zingg said.

The California Community College system, which has seen $809 million in cuts over the last few years, could be cut by an additional $300 million in November if the tax initiative doesn’t pass, said Paige Dorr, a spokeswoman for California Community Colleges. If the initiative does pass, the community college system will be given $300 million, Dorr said.

“It’s critical that we don’t sustain any further cuts but secondly that we get some new money in,” Dorr said.

The revised budget also changes the amount that Cal Grant recipients would receive to pay tuition.
Rather than being given a single “all or nothing” grant that covers the entirety of tuition at a University of California or CSU campus, 37 percent of all Cal Grant recipients would receive a lesser amount of money based on their cost of college attendance and family income.