May 16, 2012

Members of the California State University Community:

The significant reduction in state support for the California State University (CSU) over the past 4 years is unprecedented. If the Governor’s tax initiatives on the November election ballot fail, he has proposed an additional $250 million “trigger” cut that would bring the two-year loss of state support to $1 billion, or more than 35 percent. Many now characterize the university as “state assisted” rather than “state supported”.

At the May 2012 Board of Trustees meeting a presentation was given regarding possible cost reduction and revenue enhancement strategies to respond to this new direction in state funding assistance to higher education, generally, and CSU, specifically (see strategies starting at pg. 11). The Trustees asked that the Chancellor provide an opportunity for input from all members of the CSU community about these various strategies, or suggestions for additional ideas that would assist in reducing costs or increasing revenues to address the reduction in state funding. The Systemwide Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC) dates back at least to 1980. It was created as a broadly representative systemwide advisory committee to counsel the Chancellor and his executive administrative staff on support budget issues. This group had previously scheduled a meeting for Wed. May 23 from 10:30a-12:00p.

We will use this scheduled SBAC meeting as an opportunity for input from various constituencies representing the CSU community. There are several ways that you can participate:

- Submit questions in advance of the meeting (see the “Budget Strategies” link near the bottom of SBAC review page to take you directly to the mailbox). Those questions will be compiled and addressed during the meeting or included in a FAQ that will be posted after the meeting at SBAC review page.
- Join with other members of the campus community at a campus location to watch the meeting live. A facilitator at each location will synthesize questions
from the audience directly to the meeting, which will be addressed during the meeting or included in a FAQ that will be posted after the meeting at SBAC review page.

- A limited number of computer connections will be available for those people unable to join a campus location. You must pre-register to get access to one of those connections by following the “Register Now” link on the SBAC review page. If you need technical assistance, please contact Cisco WebEx Technical Support: 1-866-229-3239 (from the U.S. and Canada) or 1-408-435-7088 (toll internationally). Please note that the number of connections is limited. Even though your registration will be confirmed, attendees are accepted into the webcast on a first-come, first-served basis. Live captioning will be provided.

If you are not able to participate, a recording of the webcast will be available for a limited time immediately following the meeting at SBAC review page.

After the SBAC meeting, the Trustees’ Committee on Finance will meet to review the suggestions and identify options that should be further explored and analyzed by the full Board. The Finance Committee is expected to meet during the month of June and, as required, public notice will be posted ten-days in advance. We look forward to having you join in the conversation as strategies are developed to maintain the quality and integrity of this university system until state support for higher education is stabilized, restored, and expanded to address the workforce demand and economic prosperity of California.

Benjamin F. Quillian
Executive Vice Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer