

The logo for 'CSU Leader' features the text 'CSU Leader' in a white, serif font against a dark blue rectangular background. To the left of this blue area is a vertical grey bar with horizontal lines.

CSU Leader

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CSU Prepares for Mid-Year Reductions

Anticipating mid-year budget cuts of approximately \$23.8 million, the California State University has begun preparing to make reductions to its budget for the spring. CSU officials also warned that any additional cuts could harm the university's ability to fulfill its mission of serving students.

"The CSU presidents and the campuses have done an extraordinary job during the past year in managing some of the deepest budget cuts the university has ever experienced. Any additional cuts will be painful, but we will do our best to manage these reductions responsibly," said CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed. "Given the vital role that the CSU plays in California's economic prosperity, this is a time for all Californians to recognize and show their support for public higher education."

The governor last month submitted a proposal to the Legislature for reductions to the CSU's budget totaling \$23.8 million, \$12.5 million of which was designated to come from funding for student outreach programs such as the Educational Opportunity Program. The CSU, however, has strongly opposed the elimination of funding for the EOP, which provides grants and academic support for students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds who display potential for success in college.

The \$23.8 million reduction, which represents the equivalent of a 1 percent enrollment cut, would instead be distributed on a pro rata basis across each of the campuses and the Chancellor's Office. As long as the reductions do not go above \$23.8 million, CSU officials have said that the university will not recommend a mid-year student fee increase.

"During these difficult budget times, our primary commitment is to serving our enrolled students and delivering on our promise to provide high-quality, accessible higher education," said Reed. "Even if the Legislature does not approve the proposed reductions until January, it is essential for the CSU to begin making responsible plans for the reductions, as it has done for the past two years."

The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee's Education panel has held an informational hearing on the mid-year budget reductions, but the Legislature will not act on the governor's recommendations until after the release of the 2004/05 state budget in January.

Earlier this month, the heads of California's three public higher education systems and State Superintendent Jack O'Connell wrote a letter to Gov. Schwarzenegger

calling for the preservation of pre-collegiate academic preparation programs.

More information: [Letter to governor](#) (.doc) | [CSU Budget Central](#)