

## Chico State may get extra \$10 million from state

By LARRY MITCHELL-Staff Writer  
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SACRAMENTO -- Chico State University could have its funding increased by \$10 million under the state budget Gov. Jerry Brown proposed Thursday. Asked for a comment, campus President Paul Zingg replied, "There is much to clarify in the governor's proposed budget before any campus is going to start counting new dollars." Brown proposed giving the California State University \$250 million more this year than it received last year. "Usually, our campus is about 4 percent of any of these big numbers," Zingg wrote in an email to this newspaper. That would mean \$10 million for Chico State.

But Zingg said some questions must be answered. For one thing, Brown's proposal is just a proposal. It still must be revised and then passed by the Legislature. "It could change a little or a lot," Zingg wrote. In addition, he wrote, "the proposed budget is filled with many direct and/or implied caveats regarding graduation rates, fees, online learning, enrollments, operational efficiencies, etc. All of these need to be clarified in order to understand exactly what this budget would accomplish, what it would mean."

Mike Uhlenkamp, a spokesman for the CSU, said the governor said in his budget message that the CSU and the University of California need to be more efficient. Brown didn't say the two university systems had to meet certain goals in order to receive the proposed funding, he said. But the governor indicated he would be meeting with university leaders to discuss efficiency and other matters. Brown wants to see more students earn the degrees they seek, and he wants them to finish their studies in less time, Uhlenkamp said. Of the \$250 million, \$10 million would be dedicated to using technology, especially "online learning," to increase the number of students who can take certain large, usually lower-division, courses at one time, he said. Uhlenkamp said Brown proposed giving the CSU increases of 5 percent this year, 5 percent next year and 4 percent in each of the two following years. The increased funding would be predicated on the CSU becoming more efficient and not raising tuition during those four years.

Asked how Chico State would use an extra \$10 million if it got it this year, Zingg wrote, "I do not know how much flexibility campuses or the system will have. We will continue, though, to make student learning and progress to degree top priorities."

"The proposed budget heads us in the right direction," CSU Chancellor Timothy White was quoted as saying in a news release. "The CSU has certainly been challenged over the past several years with the drop in state support due to the state's lingering recession. "With finances more stable in the near term, now that Proposition 30 has passed, we are cautiously optimistic that the CSU's budget will begin to turn around."

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