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July 2, 2009

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Re: Budget update #7

Hello everyone,

At its June 23 meeting, the Board of Trustees took the following actions:

- Approval of an early retirement plan called SERP, or Supplemental Employee Retirement Plan. By approving this plan, the Board's intention is to attract eligible employees to retire from the West Hills Community College District. There are 54 eligible employees from all employee groups. Each individual who is eligible for this program has received the retirement information via email and postal mail. They will have until July 31 to make a decision concerning their retirement and the effective date of their retirement must be on or before August 31, 2009.
- Placement of a resolution declaring an emergency on the agenda. The Board agreed that the state was indeed in a fiscal crisis; however, after a good discussion they did not take action on this item and agreed to extend the item to another meeting which occurred earlier this week on June 30.

At its June 30 meeting, the Board of Trustees took the following actions:

- Approved the extension of the Administrative/Management/Confidential Early Retirement Plan Proposal to July 31, 2009. By taking this action, the Board provided two options for eligible employees in each of our employee groups.
- Agreed to continue the discussion on the awarding of the bid for the West Hills College Lemoore Multi Use Sports Complex at the regularly scheduled July 28 Board meeting.
- Agreed to continue the discussion on the resolution declaring an emergency at the regularly scheduled July 28 Board meeting. The Board agreed that, although there was indeed a financial crisis in the state, they would prefer to see the benefits of the SERP plan and the final budget from the state. While they are

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willing to invoke the emergency provisions, they are reluctant to do so without the benefit of more time to measure the effects of their actions and the actions of the state.

When we awoke on July 1, we realized that indeed the state had missed the deadline for a budget with specific ramifications to the West Hills Community College District. As of today, the state has not paid us approximately \$1.9 million dollars of capital outlay expenditures that have been made on the West Hills College Coalinga Wellness Center project. In addition, the state owes us approximately \$5 million in unpaid apportionment for last fiscal year. They tell us that when the budget is approved we will receive that amount reduced by about 3%. The state is issuing IOUs to all vendors. Constitutionally, community colleges will not receive IOUs with regard to paychecks; however, they are reducing and deferring apportionment payments.

To date the Board has taken action to reduce the adjunct faculty rate by \$5 per hour. They authorized me to send out letters to all CSEA and CTA members noticing the employees in each of these groups that a reduction in their salary "may" occur for 2009-2010. We have also notified all administrators, classified managers and confidential employees that reductions, if necessary, will take effect in the current fiscal year.

Meetings with CTA and CSEA continue to take place and will occur throughout the summer and into the fall. As I have said before, the 2009-2010 fiscal year may be our most challenging. Please keep in mind that any reductions that may occur are considered to be temporary. They will be thoroughly discussed with all groups and will not be acted upon until the Board gives its approval.

I understand that these are trying times for everyone. We are attempting to make all the appropriate moves to benefit our fiscal condition without eliminating services to students and the communities we serve.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we continue to appreciate your support and patience during these trying times. I look forward to being able to send more positive updates in the future.

Personal regards,



Frank Gornick
Chancellor