

## **Provost accepts budget task force recommendations**

(February 16, 2012) – Fresno State Provost William Covino said today he accepts the recommendations from a campus advisory task force regarding how to close a significant budget shortfall in the Academic Affairs division and he will continue consultation and move forward with them.

Appointed last April, the Academic Affairs Budget Advisory Task Force, with representatives from every school/college at Fresno State, has been researching the budget gap and consulting with faculty, administrators and students. Based upon mid-year projections, there is an \$8.6 million gap between the allocation of state dollars and tuition fees and the actual costs of operating programs in Academic Affairs. Some of the gap is addressed through funded research, gifts and donations, continuing education revenue and other means. However, even when all funds are tapped, a gap of over \$1 million remains, Covino said.

The task force's main recommendations, which Covino plans to implement in consultation with Deans and faculty, include:

- Continued enrollment management efforts, which prioritize access, quality, and fiscal control.
- Requiring university-affiliated centers and institutes to become self-sufficient.
- Asking each dean to find budget solutions within his or her school/college, with the eventual goal of a balanced budget.

The task force withdrew its earlier proposal to disperse programs in the College of Science and Mathematics to other schools and colleges and recommended three departmental moves. Covino said he will work with the Academic Senate to advance these recommendations consistent with established academic policies:

- Child and Family Sciences Department from the Jordan College of Agriculture to the Kremen School of Education.
- Fashion Merchandising Department from Jordan College to Craig School of Business.
- Economics from College of Social Sciences to Craig School of Business.

Covino noted that budget problems in Academics are not completely solved by enacting the Task Force recommendations. While the actions help close the gap for this year, another budget cut looms for the entire university and all of higher education in California if voters do not approve a tax measure on the November ballot. If that does not pass, Fresno State expects to have its budget reduced by another \$10.1 million.

Members of the Academic Affairs Budget Advisory Task Force were:

- Co-chair Michael Caldwell, Music Department and chair of the Academic Senate
- Co-chair Dennis Nef, Associate Vice President and Dean of Undergraduate Studies
- Antonio Avalos (Economics)
- John Constable (Biology)

- James Farrar (Plant Science)
- Robert Harper (Dean, Craig School of Business)
- Dawn Lewis (Kinesiology)
- Colleen Torgerson (Literacy and Early Education)
- Rick Zechman (Associate Dean, College of Science and Mathematics)
- Manoochehr Zoghi (Associate Dean, Lyles College of Engineering)