

## Academic Senate Resolution on the Academic Affairs Budget Advisory Task Force Report and Revised Recommendations

Presented by the Academic Senators from English: Chris Henson and Alex Espinoza

Whereas: California State University, Fresno currently faces a base budget gap of \$900,000-1.2 million for the academic year 2011-2012 and the possibility of an additional \$11 million cut for the academic year 2012-13; and

Whereas: Contrary to well-established University policies on consultative procedures, the Provost did not consult with the University Budget Committee of the Academic Senate on how the University will make the cuts necessary and instead created an ad hoc committee, the Academic Affairs Budget Advisory Task Force (AABATF) “to recommend sustainable approaches to closing this base budget gap”; and

Whereas: The AABATF did not communicate during its deliberations with the University Budget Committee; and

Whereas: Neither set of recommendations produced by the AABATF provides a financial rationale for the recommendations made; and

Whereas: Both sets of recommendations are restricted to cuts at the College/School level and below and do not recommend cuts in other areas of Academic Affairs nor do they address cuts in the portion of the University budget outside of Academic Affairs; and

Whereas: The cuts which have been recommended would have severe impact on students and faculty and the University’s core mission of teaching and research; and

Whereas: In trying to evaluate the AABATF recommendations and plan for the current budget cutback and the possible cutbacks to come, faculty must have full, accurate, and documented information about the budget plan for the current year, the actual expenditures over the past two to three years, and the actual expenditures to this point this year; and

Whereas: Repeated efforts on the part of the Academic Senate and the faculty at large to obtain information concerning the 2010-11 and 2011-12 University budgets, the budget information on which the AABATF recommendations are based, and the basis for the cost savings estimated in those recommendations have been met with resistance on the part of the CSUF administration, thwarting the faculty’s right to consultation and putting the proper administration of public policy in peril; therefore be it

Resolved: That the Academic Senate of California State University, Fresno, request an audit by the California State Auditor; and be it further

Resolved: That such an audit should include but not be limited to the following:

- the allocation of general funds to all units of the University, academic and non-academic; the percentage of cuts made to those allocations as a result of budget cutbacks; and any increases in any part of the University budget during a time of budget cutbacks and the justification for those increases;
- the existence and disbursement of any carry-forward funds from the preceding two years;
- the existence and disbursement of any reserve funds;
- funding and increases in funding to special programs, initiatives, or centers during a time of budget cutbacks;
- evaluation of the projected savings in the AABATF recommendations;
- the amount of revenue obtained from student fees; the ways in which that revenue is allocated; any portion of those revenues being held by any unit of the University; and the intended use for student fee revenues being held;
- expenditures within the administration of the University, including salaries, salary increases, the creation of new administrative divisions, staffing, and travel expenses;
- the relationship between the University budget and commercial projects such as the Save Mart Center and Campus Pointe, including any transfer of University funds and any financial obligations incurred by the University through those projects;

and be it further

Resolved: That this request be made to the state legislators and offices listed below within two weeks of the passage of this resolution:

State Senators: Michael Rubio, District # 16  
Tom Berryhill, District # 14

State Assembly Members: Henry T. Perea, Assembly District # 31  
Linda Halderman, Assembly District # 29

State Senator Alan Lowenthal, Chair, Senate Education Committee

State Assembly Member Marty Block, Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee

Legislative Analyst's Office, section on Higher Education;

and be it further

Resolved: That this resolution be forwarded to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the University President.