



President's Message



Members of the Campus Community:

Approximately 21,000 students arrived at California State University, Fresno on Monday, Aug. 23, as the university started its 100th year. As classes continue throughout the academic year, this milestone will be marked with numerous Centennial events designed to connect alumni and the entire community with the campus. The celebration will conclude May 21, 2011 with Fresno State's 100th Commencement. This year is an opportunity to look back over a century of excellence and to look ahead as we begin our second 100 years. It's also a reminder of how successfully we've worked together to overcome challenges and help thousands of individuals thrive to the benefit of others.

I set a million-hour community service goal in 2007, when I called upon the campus to reach that figure by the Centennial year of 2011. We reached and surpassed our 1 million-hour goal – a year early. The Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning reported that in 2009-10, more than 12,000 California State University, Fresno students, faculty and staff provided a combined 1,162,101 hours of service. The estimated total economic impact is \$28 million, measured by national philanthropic standards.

While we deeply appreciate our 18-year membership in the Western Athletic Conference and value the wonderful opportunities that the league has provided California State University, Fresno, we now look forward to the next chapter in the evolving history and traditions of Bulldog Athletics. In two years, we will be renewing rivalries with several universities that developed during the years many of the Mountain West's members played in the Western Athletic Conference. The invitation from Mountain West represents recognition of the quality of our athletics program as well as the consistent accomplishments of our student-athletes, coaches and staff. Our strong support for the growth and distinction of its academic programs, and for student success, will remain our highest priorities. We believe that our academic programs stand to benefit as our new relationship evolves.

Although the Governor committed to provide consistent funding for enrollment and other key education programs in exchange for the CSU system's agreement to long term educational accountability, the State of California continues to be unable to fund the "Higher Education Compact" as originally envisioned. During 2008-09, we had several mid-year budget adjustments as the State of California grappled with its fiscal crisis. In 2009-10, the overall California State University budget was \$564 million below operational needs, our campus absorbing a State General Fund appropriation reduction of \$39.8 million. The net result was no funding for enrollment growth or mandatory cost increases, significant student fee revenue increases, 24 furlough days without pay for most university faculty and staff, and cuts to strategic planning, graduate augmentation, technology and public relations.

Now, in 2010-11, the budget crisis is ongoing. The governor and the legislature specified in the 2010-11 Budget Act an increase in the resident FTES target to 339,873, despite the fact that the budget was not enacted until October 8th – nearly four months after 2010-11 had commenced. Knowing that it would be difficult to achieve this target at such a late date, additional funding was provided for the difference between the baselines of 310,317 to the Chancellor’s September 27th target of 325,360. The funding for resident FTES between the September 27th baseline of 325,360 and the Budget Act target of 339,873 will be included in a supplemental allocation upon confirmation of attained increases in enrollment.

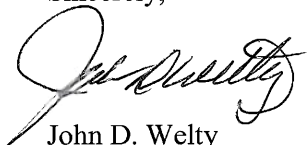
The impact of the 2010-11 Budget Act on our campus is that our General Fund Budget increased by \$15.3 million. This resulted from the general fund base allocation of \$2.5 million, additional enrollment funding of \$5.8 million, mandatory cost funding of \$.9 million and operating support restoration of \$6.6 million, with new revenue funding of \$1.7 million offset by the 5% spring revenue set aside of \$2.2 million. A detailed analysis of the 2010-11 General Fund allocation changes are provided herein.

However, even with the restoration, our campus still faces a difficult challenge in balancing our budget. After many meetings and review sessions, including a campus-wide Budget Summit in February 2010, we developed a plan to meet that challenge through a combination of two State University Fee (SUF) revenue increases of 5%, one in fall and again in mid-year, strategic cuts, and one-time funding from Centrally Managed reserves. I want to thank everyone for working so hard this spring on the budget planning process. And, we remain deeply concerned about the 2011-12 budget year and anticipate continued challenges in providing services with reduced funding. We are proactively planning and conducting meetings to explore solutions to anticipate the challenges

I understand and fully appreciate the continuing high level of anxiety amongst faculty, staff, and administrators regarding the budget. I know it has been a time of transition and change as we have said “goodbye” to many colleagues. Many of you have accepted new positions or additional responsibilities as we have tightened our collective belt to meet budgetary constraints. Our community has moved through this period with dignity and civility. Again, I sincerely thank each of you for your sacrifices and contributions.

Yes, our Centennial is a very special year. If I had a magic wand, I would wave it to create blue skies, big budgets and problem-free days throughout the year. Since I can’t do that, we must rely on our usual Bulldog spirit of hard work, innovation and working together as we face what will probably be one of the most challenging periods in our 100-year history.

Sincerely,



John D. Welty
President

A complete copy of this report and the campus’ allocation from the Chancellor can be found on the Web at www.csufresno.edu/budget. We would appreciate any suggestions or comments regarding the presentation or content of the information in this document. Please direct them to the Office of Budget and Treasury Management at (559) 278-3902 or mail stop ML53.