



Dear CSUSM Faculty and Staff,

I hope this message finds you well in the last official week of the semester. As our students wrap up their finals this week and we prepare to celebrate the Class of 2020 tomorrow at Graduates on Parade, I unfortunately must share some somber news about the California State Budget.

In January, before the coronavirus made its appearance widely known, the State of California was projected to have a \$5.6 billion surplus and Gov. Newsom had proposed a \$199 million recurring operating budget increase for the California State University (CSU) system as a whole.

At a press conference today, Newsom shared that California is now expecting a \$54.3 billion shortfall. Given this recession-induced swing of nearly \$60 billion in just four months, the governor's previous CSU budget proposal is now off the table. The new proposal includes a \$398 million CSU operating budget reduction. This is the equivalent of a 10-percent reduction in support for the CSU compared to 2019-20 levels.

The May revise is just another step toward a final state budget, approved by the legislature in June. While we wait for final numbers, we've already begun preparing for budget cuts. I have been discussing with our vice presidents and shared governance groups a multi-year planning horizon on our campus, and that model was confirmed by the governor today. In addition, we already took important steps to curtail hiring, travel and spending except for mission-critical purposes. For the foreseeable future, these measures will continue.

While difficult budget decisions will be required as we navigate this new budget reality, I am committed to providing you transparent updates as well as consulting in the spirit of shared governance with our student, staff and faculty leaders, including union leadership. In all our decisions, we will be guided by principles of prudent fiscal stewardship in commitment to our people, our students' success and our long-term sustainability as an institution.

Earlier this morning, I was asked about the impact of the coronavirus on my first year as president. While none of us could have expected that we would be walking through this challenging time together when I joined you last July, I do believe that it has given me the opportunity to reflect often on all the reasons I feel so lucky to be a part of this campus with all of you. COVID-19 has changed the way we live, teach and work. However, I have seen how all of you have risen to the occasion time and time again. You have shown me and our students that we are a caring, innovative and entrepreneurial community. I know this may be generating many questions – information will be ever-evolving. While we may not have all the answers right now, I welcome your ideas about strategies to ensure a healthy and sustainable financial future. Please email me at pres@csusm.edu.

Thank you for all that you do for our campus and each other.

Sincerely,

Ellen Neufeldt
President

Share this email:



333 South Twin Oaks Valley
San Marcos, CA | 92096 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.