



Dear Faculty & Staff,

It's hard to believe we are more than halfway through the summer. For so many of us, this season looks and feels so much different than summers of the past.

Weekly – if not daily – it seems there is new information to process that impacts us all. It is easy to feel completely overloaded and oversaturated by everything coming at us, and that creates a strain not only in our work lives but our personal lives. At the same time, I want to continue to express my gratitude to all of you. I am incredibly thankful to you for persevering to plan for the fall, serve our students, and innovate for the future.

We just heard from Chancellor White on the state of the California State University budget. I wanted to follow his message with information about the potential budget impact here at CSUSM. At this time, we are estimating 2020-2021 financial losses of just over \$19 million, inclusive of operating and auxiliary funds.

This is a significant number, and I want to thank the excellent work of our division's leaders who have proactively developed cost-saving scenarios that will help us mitigate these losses. In addition, we will use a portion of our reserves, CARES Act funds and the savings that you have worked hard to achieve thanks to pausing travel, hiring, purchases and more.

This is an unusual budget year and, as Chancellor White noted in his [message](#), we will need to re-evaluate if our budget estimates change. He also stated that while the CSU will not be pursuing furloughs at this time, some layoffs may be necessary across the system. It is my sincere hope that we will not have to go that route here at CSUSM and we will work hard together to protect our people. This will require us to be creative and resourceful in the ways we work to fulfill our mission. Our three guiding budget priorities through this time will be our people, our students' success and the long-term sustainability of our university.

The state of our campus budget is a topic I will bring to conversations with our shared governance groups and University Cabinet, most of which will occur this week. After which, we will publish a Budget Communication webpage with budget presentations and an archive of budget-related messages. I will continue to update you as frequently as possible.

I know this is a hard time for every one of us, particularly given that there is so much uncertainty in our world. Despite this, I marvel each day at all that you are doing to extend care to our students and to each other. I'm optimistic because I've seen your resilience and capacity to adapt and move forward, and I know brighter days are ahead for all of us.

I continue to invite you to share your thoughts with me at pres@csusm.edu or by attending an upcoming monthly Listening & Learning small group session.

Sincerely,

Ellen Neufeldt
President

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