Cutrer welcomed and thanked everyone for arranging their schedules to allow participation in this joint meeting which was convened to bring together the division’s administrative leadership group and faculty leadership group to talk about the budget picture. This is not a decision-making conversation since we lack confirmed information upon which to base decisions. Because of the ongoing negotiations with the various employee collective bargaining units, administration must observe the appropriate protocol to ensure fair labor practice. Hence, some questions or areas of concern may not be open to discussion. Kreisler and Jeffries concurred with Cutrer’s statement.

Cutrer reported that there is no new budget information to share other than to reiterate the information President Haynes shared at the Budget Forum held last Thursday, July 9th. Cutrer provided a brief review of that information. Since the FY 2009/10 State, CSU and CSUSM budgets are not yet approved, most of the information that is available must be considered subject to change. At this point, however, if various scenarios are implemented or realized — possible employee work furloughs, possible student fee increases, fee revenue generated from FTES in excess of target, positive year-end balance to be carried forward at the University level — the campus projects a $3.4M shortfall for 2009-2010. It is anticipated that following the CSU Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, July 21st, more definite information will be available for campuses’ planning purposes.

Discussion ensued, following which Cutrer provided the following recap:

1) Furloughs (if approved)
   • Develop the plan for scheduling employees’ furlough days as soon as possible
   • Unified approach to ensure impacts to other units are known
   • Explore shortening the semesters
   • Explore closing campus the Monday – Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving

2) Additional funds to be cut
   • What process will be used to identify reductions (existing processes may not be an option due to time constraints for implementation)
   • Possibility of separating fall and spring terms when planning for reductions and/or furloughs (if approved)
   • Engage in the discussion those leaders who will be involved in implementing the reductions (at the unit level)

3) Workload
   • Because opportunities for making mistakes are large, we should make sure that CFA (Kreisler/Barrett) and Jennifer Jeffries are consulted
4) Communication
   - Post prominently on the campus web page a list of unit/office hours of service
   - Develop and distribute to the campus community common talking points to respond to students’ concerns, including information about how to contact State legislators
   - Once the reductions have been made, issue a message to the campus community explaining by unit what reductions were made and the resulting impact

5) Morale
   - Acknowledge that much of this is beyond our control – it’s at the State and national levels
   - Avoid “disaster for decades” perspective, instead adopt the perspective that “we’re at the bottom and planning how to advance”
   - Focus on the big picture – this is temporary, and we’re all about the future
   - Continue articulating the President’s message that people come first and are valued by the institution – both students and employees
   - Gather people together to develop a sense of sharing the experience
   - Working together, we can successfully address the financial situation
   - Be mindful of how this situation may be represented in the media – not only the impact to students and employees, but also to avoid possible negative press for expenditures that may appear frivolous to members of the external community

6) Next steps
   - Establish a schedule for joint meetings of the AALC and Senate EC to continue discussing ways to address the current budget situation, especially when confirmed information is available for planning purposes (Cutrer and Yoshii will explore options)
   - Develop listserv
   - Possibility of using Senate website for faculty to ask questions