Chancellor’s Budget Update: ‘These are Times We Haven’t Seen’

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NOCCCD Chancellor Ned Doffoney and Vice Chancellor Fred Williams hosted an on-campus budget forum with Dr. Kasler on Tuesday — and the news was not good.

The forum was scheduled in response the state’s budget crisis, which is expected to result in retroactive, current-year budget cuts and even deeper cuts next year.

An estimated district-wide $10 million cut this year (2008-09) is expected to be managed through spending slowdowns and carry-over funds from previous years.

The chancellor’s campus visit is part of the planning process in anticipation of cuts that could be as high as $15 million next year (2009-10). The discussion is intended to jump start discussion in the various constituency groups about ideas to handle the cuts. Input from that process will be used to formulate recommendations around the time of the Governor’s 2009-10 Budget Proposal in early to mid-January.

“We intend to hear your voices,” Dr. Doffoney said to the audience that filled CCPLX-414 for the noontime forum.

Dr. Kasler opened the forum by noting that “at times like this, we become stronger.”

In his opening remarks, Dr. Doffoney recalled the financial difficulties experienced after the passage of Proposition 13 and the Orange County bankruptcy. However, the magnitude of the financial situation over the next 20 months is even more dire, he noted.

“These are times we haven’t seen,” Dr. Doffoney said.

The District will not manage the crisis with “across-the-board” cuts, he said, since those would likely be so deep as to render programs ineffective. Priorities will be placed first on instructional programs and second on student services.

“Things won’t happen as they have always happened,” he said, adding that the District will value its employees, but will not focus on places and things.

Williams shared that now is the time to make planned cuts, rather than delaying action and taking a reactionary approach down the road. He also reiterated the Chancellor’s comments about placing a value and focus on the people who are employed in the District. Finally, he noted that the plan includes adhering to a Board policy that requires maintaining a 5% budget contingency.

Aside from those three things, “everything else is on the table,” Williams said.

The plan, he said, is to focus on five areas: enrollment, productivity, vacant positions, employee benefits and salary rollbacks or furloughs.

More than 88% of the total District budget is allocated to employee salaries and benefits, he said.
PRINCIPLES FOR BUDGET REDUCTIONS

As Cypress College makes budget reductions we will keep in mind our vision, our mission, and our core values:

**Vision**
A premier learning community recognized for supporting student success and enriching society.

**Mission**
Cypress College enriches students’ lives by providing high-quality education for transfer to four-year institutions, associate degrees, career technical education, and certificate coursework, as well as basic skills and opportunities for lifelong learning. The college is committed to promoting student learning and success, embracing diversity, and contributing to both the economic and social development of the surrounding community.

**Core Values**
Excellence, Integrity, Collegiality, Inclusiveness

Cypress College is committed to promoting student success and contributing to intercultural understanding and the economic development of the surrounding community. The college offers certificates, degree, vocational, and transfer education, as well as developmental and student services programs, in a student-centered learning environment.

The following principles will guide the decisions that are made:

1. Commitment to making decisions that are aligned with our long and short term plans such as the Educational Master Plan and the Student Services Master Plan.
2. Maintain student access to courses to the greatest extent possible.
3. Maintain student access to programs/services to the greatest extent possible.
4. Make reductions in ways that have the least negative impact on students, faculty, and staff.
5. Recognize that student services are a critical part of the college mission.
6. When evaluating the need to reduce, merge or eliminate programs and services, the following are to be taken into consideration:
   * Program or service redundancy
   * The long term effects of the decision
   * The need to minimize the impact upon permanent positions
7. Consider the long-term impact prior to eliminating full-time positions.
8. Transition existing full-time staff to vacancies if necessary and whenever possible.
9. Utilize all available technology to save money even if there is an initial cost for providing the technology.
10. Make reductions with a global view of the college in mind, rather than focusing on what’s best for a single program, service, or subset of the campus population.
11. To the greatest extent possible avoid canceling classes if cancellations would likely have a long-term impact on enrollment and FTES.
12. Keep an eye on the future and our return to growth that will follow the current budget crisis.

In addition to these principles, the college will increase efforts to obtain external funding in order to provide essential programs and services.

Principles for Budget Reductions approved by PAC 05/15/08
Updated Vision and Mission approved by PAC 09/18/08
O.C.'s International Students

By Michelle Le

Orange County is a premier vacation destination, with its pristine beaches and water-based attractions. More than 44 million tourists a year, it should come as no surprise that the area is also a choice destination for international students from around the world. They come here to study the English language, American culture, and the way of life here in the O.C., while sharing their own heritage with their host families, friends, and classmates.

Recently, we asked some of Orange County’s international students about their local educational experience compared to their schooling back in their native country. Here are their responses:

Ben Thompson-Star

Cypress College

Ben is a native Australian who has been living in the O.C. since January 2008. “I love living in the O.C. because it’s so close to everything you can imagine, yet it still has the feeling of being out of the city,” he says. “I love that I live 15 minutes from Disneyland, Knotts, the beach, and all the other fun things!”

Katya Brek

Santiago Canyon College

Katya, a Russian native, has found herself in America since 2005. She is currently a student at Santiago Canyon College and feels that Orange County is a beautiful place. She likes the amount of parks, beaches, and malls, and feels there are so many exciting opportunities. Katya expressed, “My school experience in America has given me an opportunity to experience many of my dreams come true.” She continued, “I have met many people from all over the world, and I feel like I’m learning something new every day.”

Ngo Binh

Costa Mesa Community College

Ngo, a native of Vietnam, has been in Orange County for three years. He arrived in the United States to study English at Costa Mesa Community College and has recently transferred to the University of California, Irvine. He continues to learn English and American culture through his studies.

Marie Robinson

Corona del Mar High School

Marie arrived in Orange County from Russia just four months ago and is currently completing her senior year at Corona del Mar High School. She plays on the school’s volleyball team and has already earned one of the “Top Players” award by the O.C. Register. Marie appreciates Orange County because “the weather is beautiful, all the time and everything is new.”

Ngoc Nguyen

Costa Mesa Community College

Ngoc recently transferred into Costa Mesa Community College and has recently transferred into their general education program. In her free time, she enjoys reading books and watching movies. Ngoc has learned that learning English in America is similar to learning English in Vietnam, except being at the university.

Delta Saipo

 Cypress College

Delta is from Vietnam, and she has been in Orange County for almost three years and is fluent in Vietnamese and English. She enjoys the “time and everything is new every day.”

Nina Sung

Innovo Valley College

Nina is from Seoul, South Korea, and has attended Cypress College for two years. She enjoys the “time and everything is new every day.” Nina has learned that studying in California is “time and everything is new every day.”

Sang Jin Lee

 Cypress College

Sang Jin is from South Korea and has been in Orange County for two years and a half. He enjoys the “time and everything is new.”

Janice Kofrusova

Orange Coast College

Janice is from Prague, Czech Republic, and arrived in Orange County in August. She loves the beach and is already learning how to surf. “I love the beach and love surfing!”

Samuel Frank Mwenge

Innovo Valley College

Samuel is from Tanzania and has attended Cypress College for two years. He enjoys the “time and everything is new every day.” Samuel has learned that studying in California is “time and everything is new.”

Seung Jin Lee

 Cypress College

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Photo Gallery

Gallery Images

Kwanzaa 2008 - 4th Annual Event - Tuesday, December 02, 2008

A Cypress College student lights the kinara during the candle lighting ceremony.

Full Image >

Afro-Caribbean Dancers from the Cypress College Dance Department under the direction of Erin Landry.

Full Image >

Members of the planning committee and some VIPs pose for a photo after the event.
Photo Gallery

Gallery Images

CC AT NIGHT - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2008

Campus Event

The conjunction of the crescent Moon, Venus and Jupiter is seen above the Cypress College Bookstore on Monday, December 1, 2008. The three are the brightest objects in the night sky.

Full Image >

The Cypress College Student Center and Bookstore are seen in this night-time photograph. The buildings opened this year at the base of the campanile (center).

Full Image >

The Cypress College Library/Learning Resource Center and Science/Engineering/Math buildings are seen in this night-time photograph. A fog rolled in minutes before this image was captured, adding a glow to the sky.

Full Image >