July 20, 2020

Dear CSUCI Community:

As you read from Chancellor White’s message, the CSU experienced a $299 million cut to our state-funded base budget for this fiscal year 2020/21. I am writing today to provide you with additional context specific to our campus.

As a result of the cut to the CSU budget, our campus is expected to sustain a $5.1 million or 7.5% permanent reduction to our campus state appropriation. In addition, we are projecting an annual enrollment drop of just under 5% representing a tuition decrease of $1.9 million, but we will know more about actual enrollment trends in the months ahead. Additionally, we are estimating a revenue loss for our campus auxiliary enterprises (housing, parking and dining) of $11.6 million.

While these reductions are sobering, we have spent the last several years preparing for economic uncertainty and we have realized a balanced budget and expanded our reserves. Thanks to this important work, and our collective efforts to minimize spending this spring, our campus will largely utilize our reserves to bridge this year’s budget shortfall along with cost-saving measures such as the chill in hiring and non-essential travel.

While these efforts will assist in the near-term, they involve one-time dollars and, as Chancellor White indicated, we expect the enormity of the COVID-19 economic impact to continue for some time. As a result, we will need to work together this year to engage in extensive campus-wide and divisional dialogue to develop cost reduction scenarios that will address the permanent reduction to our state appropriation in fiscal year 21/22 and beyond. These conversations will begin with the return of the faculty in late August and, as always, will be guided by the health and safety of our academic community and our unwavering commitment to student success.

I want to thank the members of the Strategic Resource Planning Committee (SRPC) for their continued efforts to keep the campus apprised of updated budget information and I encourage you all to visit the SRPC website for the latest information.

As we move forward to address the extraordinary challenges brought on by this unprecedented time in our collective history, I remain confident in the intellect, innovation, and resiliency of our students, faculty, and staff. I know that these difficult times take an enormous toll on us all personally and professionally, but I also know that if we take care of ourselves and one another, we will continue to advance our mission in service of a brighter, more equitable and learned future for us all.

Please stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,
Erika D. Beck, Ph.D.
President