From: UCCS Faculty Assembly List <FA-l@lists.uccs.edu>
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 1:34 PM
To: FA-l <FA-l@lists.uccs.edu>
Subject: [FA-l]President's Report for April

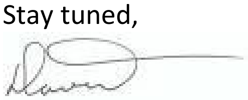
I had held back this report to wait for the outcome of the regents' meeting. Now that they've met, I want to give you an update on next year's prospective budget situation. I will keep it short (no, really) and factual, because things may yet change.

As recently as late February, the budget prospects for next year were dismal. The governor had proposed a 4.8% increase for higher education and the regents were expressing support for keeping tuition flat. You may think that a 4.8% increase would have been good news, and there have been plenty of times over the last 20 years when it would been have been**. This coming year, however, is different. Part of how we got through the pandemic was to use federal, state and system funding to avoid taking cuts, given the losses and additional costs of the pandemic.** Some of those costs have gone away. Our ongoing needs for faculty and staff remain. **Almost everyone who was laid off has been re-hired or replaced. The permanent funding that supports them has not always come back.** In addition, **there are new costs, many of them linked to inflation. The 3% salary increase** that the classified staff are being granted by the state (and the campus must pay for) **desperately needs to be matched for university staff and faculty**. **Utility rates are up and not expected to drop any time soon. Insurance costs are also up**. Everything from toilet paper to pipettes are also more expensive. In short, **the February numbers looked like a formula for big spending cuts.**

Fortunately**, the legislature's Joint Budget Committee** saw things differently than the governor and **is recommending an 11+% state funding increase**. **The regents voted for both the 3% salary increase and a 2% tuition increase**. No one wants to see a tuition increase, but that confluence of events means we will have enough revenue to cover the additional costs next year. At this point, though, **it appears that will fall short of covering all the base budget losses from previous years that were bridged with one-time dollars. We also currently expect our enrollments to continue to decline next year**. Bottom line, it will be nice to get raises, even if they don't fully keep up with inflation, but **we may see cuts in things we value as the one-time dollars that paid for them this year are exhausted.**

I hope to learn more at this week's University Budget Advisory Committee meeting (budget report to follow). **There are also some positive** (if not base budget) **developments in the offing I will report on** when I know more specifics.

Stay tuned,



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