May 21, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, the state has been grappling with a budget shortfall of epic proportions, which only seems to grow worse with each passing month. In February, after months of negotiating, the Legislature and the Governor reached a resolution on the budget that was supposed to carry the state through fiscal year 2009-10. However, this budget was built on assumptions that have not materialized, including revenues which have come in under estimates and ballot measures that have now been rejected by the voters. The state is truly in a precarious fiscal situation.

Recent information from the State Chancellor's Office and the Community College League of California indicates that the state is now facing a $21.3 billion shortfall. The Governor's May Revise budget proposal for community colleges is as follows:

**Current Year (2008-09):**

- Defer an additional $115 million in apportionment payments from 2008-09 to 2009-10.
- A reduction of $85 million in across-the-board cuts to categorical programs.
- An estimated $42.1 million local property tax shortfall with no backfill for the colleges.

**Budget Year (2009-10):**

- A reduction of $343 million in across-the-board cuts to categorical programs.
• Eliminate 2% enrollment growth, cut of $116 million (leaving only 1% enrollment growth).
• A reduction of $120 million to implement lowering the funding rate for credit PE and recreation courses to the non-credit rate.
• An estimated $116.7 million local property tax shortfall with no backfill for the colleges.

As you are aware, Citrus College took proactive measures last fall, and with the help of managers, faculty and staff, we made reductions in almost every area of the budget, including strategic cuts in course offerings, suspending hiring in all but essential positions and many other reductions in spending. The reductions will go a long way in helping us face the declining state budget. However, in light of the Governor's proposed May Revise, it is critical that we once again collaboratively begin the process of considering additional spending deferrals and reductions to the college's budget for both this academic year and the 2009-10 year.

In the days and weeks ahead, we expect to more fully understand the impact this proposed budget will have on Citrus College. Please be assured that the members of the Citrus College Governing Board and I will be doing our part to advocate with our state legislators and the State Chancellor's Office in an effort to protect the community college budget.

Let me reaffirm that, fiscal challenges aside, we are all part of a dynamic learning institution. Together, we must address our short-term challenges, but we must also continue to plan for the long-term and how we will fulfill our mission, reach our strategic goals and serve our students and our community.

I will continue to keep you apprised of budget updates from the state and college. I thank you for your support and assistance during this challenging time for all of us.