On Tuesday, I briefed the budget managers across campus about our current budget and the process we have put into place to address the cuts mandated by the legislature. Today, I will hold a similar session with the Faculty Senate leadership, and I am currently working with the staff council to arrange a briefing for them. Should you like more information, I urge you to contact the individuals in your area who are responsible for your budget. They are now fully briefed and engaged in the budget reduction process. Here is a brief summary of the key points in those briefings.

The budget reduction for this fall is approximately $3.1 million. Our preliminary estimate for next fall’s reduction is approximately $462,000, plus any adjustment to our budget for failing to meet our enrollment projection for this year. Right now enrollment for fall 2013 is very preliminary, so it is too early to judge.

The budget review process started last spring when the Cabinet began making contingency plans. We shared those with the University Budget Advisory Committee twice this summer. However, the real work started several weeks ago when I assigned budget reduction targets to the Cabinet. Cabinet members have been working within their respective units to determine how to adjust their budgets. As an institution, we will evaluate reserve funds, operating budgets, and vacant and filled positions.

Cabinet recommendations are due to me by September 10. I will review their recommendations with the full Cabinet to develop an initial plan of action. This plan will be reviewed again by the University Budget Advisory Committee and the Board of Trustees prior to a final Cabinet review. I will enact a plan no later than October 15. As we go through this process, our decisions will be guided by the following principles:

- Final cuts will not be across the board.
- Cuts must reflect legislative categories to include administrative, operational, and instructional efficiencies.
- All actions require evaluation against strategic goals with special emphasis on student success.
- Our focus is on the long-term health of the institution.

So, as we move forward with these new budget figures in hand, we have the benefit of the input of many diverse voices—people who will help guide us in making decisions that are carefully considered, that are strategic, and that will be good for the university as a whole.