
Chair's Message:

Sustaining Quality During Bad Budget Times

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Our budget for this academic year is less than we hoped for. There is a significant possibility that there will be additional cuts later this year and/or that the 09-10 budget will be worse than this year's budget. What are we to do? How are we to maintain a quality education on this campus?

First of all, we will make it through this period of bad budgets. We've been through budget crises in the past, and we have not only survived, but we have prospered. We will do so this time, as well. More experienced faculty, please reassure your colleagues, who have not been through a budget crunch before, that we will survive and prosper this time, as well.

Second, we need to persevere and continue doing what we do best – teaching, research, and service. In addition, we should work together to help each other out and improve our overall efficiency. We need to seek out more external funding. We should also help our chairs, deans, directors, ... strategically plan for these cuts so that our main mission, student learning, is not compromised.

Third, this is an opportunity to plan for a better future when our budgets are more rosey. We should use this time to do long-range planning and prioritize our goals so that we become an even better educational institution. What do we want to become: better teachers, better researchers, better mentors, more collegial, more community-oriented, more efficient, more sustainable--all of the above? Most of the articles in this issue focus on ongoing discussion in these areas.

Lastly, sit back and take a few minutes to decide what small steps you can take today. Work

together, obtain external funding, help a colleague, serve on a committee, reduce your printing and photocopying, ... This year, the Planning, Resources, and Budget Committee is foregoing free lunches to reduce expenses. What can you do to help? Every little bit makes a difference.

The situation we are in is similar to a mountain ultramarathon. There are always ups and downs, and there are usually one or more periods during the race where you don't feel well. In such cases, you need to slow down, focus on just reaching the next peak, and persevere. Ultrarunners are very collegial and usually shout out a few encouraging words as they zip by. Eventually you begin to feel better and pick up the pace. At the end of the race, you're feeling great as the endorphins rush through you, and you know you've successfully completed another awesome ultramarathon in the mountains. Similarly, this period of budget malaise will eventually pass, CSUF will prosper, and you will be finishing another stimulating and rewarding year at CSUF.

Please send your comments and ideas to me at shewitt@fullerton.edu. Keep up the good work!

