

Jim Wright

From: Jim Wright
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2009 3:58 PM
Subject: Enrollment Reduction Update

TO: Ohlone Faculty [Deans, Please forward to Adjunct Faculty]

This is a follow up to my May 27 email about our enrollment reduction plans for the coming year in response to the state budget crisis (that memo and this and subsequent updates will be posted on the Academic Affairs website at:

<http://www.ohlone.edu/org/academicaffairs/enrollmentreduction.html>

At the end of May we envisioned an enrollment reduction to a "no-growth" base level for 2009-10 involving approximately 170 section cuts over the fall and spring semesters, and a cut of 20% for next summer. Now there are indications that our base level of funding for enrollment will actually be reduced; requiring further cuts in our schedules. A major difficulty is there are no clear and definitive directions from the state; and yet our fall schedule of classes is quickly filling. Along with all community colleges in California, we are left to find a balance between over-reacting and under-reacting.

After discussions with Dr. Browning, I am working with the Deans to institute the levels of cuts mentioned in my May 27 memo, but also going beyond that to reduce the fall schedule as much as prudently possible. News from Sacramento changes daily, and seems to worsen rather than improve. We are attempting to stay on top of developments and translate what we learn into pragmatic actions here at Ohlone on our schedule of classes. I will try to keep you posted as we proceed.

We will need more dialogue about spring semester targets before that schedule is finalized (which is normally by the end of September) based on actual enrollment this summer and fall, and further understanding of the impact of decisions at the state level. Also, it is looking more and more like the 2010 summer term will need to be significantly reduced.

In all of this our first priority is to cause as little harm to students as possible and to give them options. Cancelling sections earlier rather than later is one way to give them more time to adjust. But make no mistake about it, this crisis is going to shrink access to community college classes and students will be hurt across the state. It seems there is no way at this point to avoid that.

Please stay of abreast this summer to updates Dr. Browning is posting to her website about the budget crisis in general and how Ohlone is working to meet the challenges.

Those of you who have been around for a while know that the pendulum from "growth" to "cuts" swings regularly. Although this will be a particularly severe swing to the "cut" side, we will get through this and things will get better. But it is going to be painful. I know the Ohlone Community will work together to meet this challenge. In my capacity I will do everything I can to find that elusive balance between over- and under-reaction. And I thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

In appreciation, Jim