

Hello,

Last evening we had the opportunity to update the Board of Education about our progress and challenges as we embark on balancing the FY14 and FY15 budget.

I will continue to remind the campus community that Lane is experiencing a leveling off of enrollment. This is typical, when the economy fails people go to community college and when it improves they go back to work. During the 2008-2011 recession many in our community lost their jobs and returned to college. During this time Lane accommodated an amazing enrollment surge of 43 percent. We were there when students needed us the most.

This year (FY14) we are experiencing a deficit of more than \$3 million due to continued enrollment declines. We intend to balance this year's budget with a combination of part time faculty and part time classified staff reductions, and M&S reductions. We are also looking closely at our vacancy list and limiting overtime and overload expenditures. We will need to continue to engage in the difficult work of matching the size of our workforce to the current level of enrollment.

Next year (FY15) our challenge is even greater. Our current deficit is tracking at six million dollars, assuming no additional enrollment declines, and I want to be clear about the magnitude of this deficit and the work it will take to balance this budget. It remains to be seen if a deficit of this size will mean program cuts and the loss of full time positions.

The link below from the Pew Charitable Trust provides an interactive map projecting the outlook for job creation in 2014. The western United States will have overall strong job growth and Oregon is expected to be in the top ten states for job growth.

<http://www.pewstates.org/research/data-visualizations/top-states-for-job-creation-in-2014-85899531089>

How will we approach this work?

We have been reviewing the principles, criteria and data elements and following a process that has been created by the Budget and Finance subcommittee and the Board of Education. We are engaging in a process of staff analysis with our deans, directors and managers and their staff and faculty. Through conversations with the Budget and Finance subcommittee and the campus community we will be presenting our recommendations to the Board of Education.

During this time we will be communicating with the campus through the budget website at www.lanec.edu/budget and hosting ideas and feedback at the budget blogs.lanec.edu/budget. We have also created a frequently asked questions section (FAQ's) that will answer many of the most common concerns.

Deans, Directors and Managers will analyze and apply the principles and criteria. These findings will be shared with the Vice President and Executive Deans. We will partner in the decision making process and support the implementation of these decisions.

The Executive Team will be engaged in this work and the Budget and Finance subcommittee will provide a campus wide forum and dialogue.

The Budget and Finance subcommittee has developed the criteria for budget allocations and they will receive and review budget allocation recommendations. The sub committee will also convene forums to provide dialogue on budget and finance.

The time line:

March 31: College Council work plan – budget work complete.

March 12: Board meeting. Public discussion of budget recommendations.

February 15: Notice of possible reductions delivered.

January 27: ET recommendations.

January 16: All campus meeting. Share updated projection.

Please plan on attending the all campus meeting on January 16th, from 2-4 pm in rooms 103/104 in the Center for Meeting and Learning. The first part of this meeting will be a review and update of the most recent projections and our reduction strategy to date. The next part of our time together will be spent working in small groups and looking at some ideas that have formed in these groups. There will be time for groups to report out and time for a question and answer period. I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you

Brian

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