

Campus-wide email from President Wiewel
Sent 2/25/09

Dear Colleagues,

I want to thank you all for the difficult decisions that you had to make to meet the required state budget reductions for this biennium. Managers worked hard to present the University Budget team with options for a 3 percent reduction in teaching departments and a 5 percent reduction for non-teaching units.

There is no doubt that we are facing difficult times, and sacrifices are being required of us all. The process we undertook to meet the state requirement had to be timely, and we were especially constrained by the fact that a 4 percent overall reduction (in addition to 1 percent in December) has to be taken within the last four months of the 24-month biennium. This is a difficult goal, but the campus has achieved it.

The University Budget Team and the President's Executive Committee considered the managers' proposals as well as various departmental situations and financial capabilities. The resulting reductions range from 6 percent in the President's Office to 2.5 percent in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and 1.5 percent in the School of Fine and Performing Arts. We are committed to preserving as much as possible in instructional capacity and in the scholarly and research activities of our faculty. These are always our first concerns.

As a campus community, we will no doubt be further challenged as the governor and state legislators confront the realities of this economic crisis. PSU will continue to provide quality education, scholarship, and research for our students and the community. That is our mission and commitment. As we learn more, we will consult and communicate with you in as timely a manner as possible on our budget plans. Thank you for your continued support of Portland State and its students.