



HLC Accreditation 2020-2021

Evidence Document

Office of the President

John W. Bardo

Letter from President Bardo on Status of Budget

Additional information: Published by the Strategic Communications under heading "Establishing budget priorities to preserve jobs and fulfill the university's mission." Emailed to the WSU community on November 23, 2016. See at: <http://webs.wichita.edu/depttools/depttoolsmemberfiles/joe/Bardoletterbudget11232016.pdf>



November 23, 2016

Colleagues,

I want to thank everyone who took part in the discussion Friday regarding the state's budget situation. As those who were present are aware, this is just the beginning of a conversation regarding how we will together handle any potential budget cuts necessitated by shortfalls in the State General Fund (SGF).

As I announced on Friday, I am assembling a special budget advisory committee. I have asked the presidents of the Faculty Senate, the UP Senate, and the USS Senate to serve on this committee, and for SGA to provide the name of a student who has a strong background in business to serve as the SGA representative. The committee will be co-chaired by the Provost and the Vice President for Finance and Administration. I will share with you the names of the other members of the committee over the next several weeks.

It is important to remember as we go through the remainder of this academic year, that the shortfall affects only areas of the university funded by SGF and tuition. Areas funded by fees, grants, gifts and auxiliary income are not affected. Likewise, development on the Innovation Campus that is being paid for by private investment, grants and bonds is not affected. Also, parking fees will pay for the RSC parking garage and those funds cannot be moved to replace SGF funding. Cutting those areas or stopping their operations will have no impact on the SGF-funded areas and can hurt the university's ability to recover from the current budget situation.

Just to summarize where we are:

- State revenue shortfalls are estimated at \$346 million for this fiscal year and more than \$400 million for next fiscal year. As of today, we have had no instruction from the state regarding any budget allotment or potential reductions for next year. This current process is intended as a means to plan for potential cuts so that we minimize damage to the university should budget reductions be required.
- All budget information is public and the 2017 annual operating budget is available on the Faculty/Staff tab in MyWSU. Click on the 2017 Adopted Operating Budget link or go to <http://wichita.edu/2017budget>.
- In consultation with the advisory committee, we will look for organization and process improvements to save money. For example, numerous universities have adopted service centers to handle common tasks in areas such as human resources and finance.

Each area of the university has been asked to identify 6 percent reductions from their general fund budgets, adding up to about \$7.6 million in total spending reductions. This process is intended to provide the special budget advisory committee with an estimate of the impact of cuts in any given area of the university. Please do not anticipate an “across-the-board” cut in all areas funded by SGF and tuition. The special budget advisory committee will be asked to help establish priorities that minimize damage to the university and our ability to meet our mission. Our goal is to cut and reinvest intelligently after deliberation, rather than do so under the pressure of an immediate deadline.

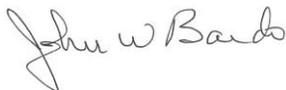
Because of the importance of this process, I am asking the special budget advisory committee to engage in regular communication with the campus and to actively seek input from all constituencies. You are encouraged to share your ideas with the committee so that we can all make the best decisions possible in this difficult situation.

It is important to recall that Increasing enrollment, especially credit hours, is the most important thing we can do because of the revenue produced. For that reason, we won't be cutting areas such as admissions and advising that focus on student recruiting and retention. This also would be a good time for each area of the university to examine what it can do to enhance enrollment and increase retention.

Finally, I know it's difficult for all of us to do our best in an atmosphere where cost-cutting is under discussion. This is a concern for all members of the WSU community, even those not directly affected by cuts. Please be aware that I am asking the special budget advisory committee to help identify priorities that preserve jobs while fulfilling our mission as an essential educational, cultural and economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance as we work together to address the current state financial situation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Bardo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Regards,".

John W. Bardo
President
Wichita State University