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Wichita State announces temporary cost-saving measures

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WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 6, 2020

Wichita State announces temporary cost-saving measures

As you will see in tomorrow's First Tuesday newsletter to the campus community, the university is beginning to review the longer-term implications of COVID-19 for our campus. This pandemic has already had a significant financial impact on our institution. These uncertain times require us to take thoughtful precautions to ensure WSU's future success.

As we look ahead to the start of the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, we are bracing for the financial impact caused by a reduction in state revenues from the loss of business activity and an anticipated reduction in enrollment.

Although our enrollment projections for academic year 2020-2021 were showing an increase in overall enrollment, we now anticipate an adverse effect. We especially worry for and about our international student population, many of whom have returned to their home countries and may not be able to return to the United States by the fall semester, as well as prospective international students who can't get a visa to travel to the United States.

Our administration and our university budget advisory committee, comprised of 31 faculty, staff and student representatives from across campus, are exploring scenarios and management approaches to minimize adverse impacts to our campus community. As we look for ways to reduce the future financial impact, we must evaluate our current spending.

Therefore, today, WSU is implementing two temporary cost-saving measures: a hiring freeze and restrictions on discretionary spending

including travel and non-essential purchases. More detailed information about these actions and their implications, including the process for waiver requests, will be coming soon.

We do not tell you these things to be alarming, but rather to be honest and transparent about the challenging realities higher education institutions – including our own – are facing. We are confident that, with strategic and thoughtful planning, Wichita State will emerge even stronger than we were before.

We are grateful for your continued patience and grace during these unprecedented and difficult times. Please continue to take care of yourselves and others. Stay connected, but remain vigilant in practicing social distancing. Know that we are here for you and we will walk through this together, as one Shocker Nation.

Sincerely,

President Jay Golden and Provost Rick Muma

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