

## **The CSN Chronicle**

Greetings, and welcome to *The CSN Chronicle* for February 2008. The *Chronicle* lets me share some of the important questions raised by our faculty and staff members from time-to-time.

The following plan addendum was submitted to the Board of Regents on January 25, 2008 and approved by the Board on February 7.

### **Budget Reduction Plan - Addendum**

On January 7, 2008, the Board of Regents (BOR) approved the Budget Reduction Plan as submitted by CSN. This plan reflected budgetary cuts necessary to address the 4.5% general fund reduction as outlined by the Governor's Office. For CSN this represents \$8.67 million for 2007-2009.

The BOR identified and approved \$10 million in general fund appropriations to be utilized to offset institutional budget cuts and assist the campuses in meeting the reductions as outlined. CSN represents approximately 15% of the total NSHE general fund appropriation, the proposed distribution that would apply to CSN is roughly \$1.5 million. The following outlines CSN's proposed application of the 1.5 million to the original reduction plan for consideration and approval.

#### **Amend Student Surcharge Assessment:**

To address the magnitude of reductions, CSN originally presented a surcharge in the amount of \$4.50. Through the application of funds, CSN recommends a reduction in the surcharge to \$2.75 per credit hour. The revised surcharge will yield revenues of \$1.6 million. The reduction in the surcharge utilizes \$1.1 million of the funds utilized to offset the student assessment.

#### **Amend HECC/Deferred Maintenance:**

CSN proposes the use of approximately \$250,000 to reduce the return of HECC funding. The campus has critical deferred maintenance issues that will require the closure of a major building at the Charleston Campus. These funds are critical to address the immediate nature and facilitate repairs during the summer months in order that the facility will be back available for Fall 2008 class scheduling.

#### **Amend Operating Budget Reductions:**

CSN proposes the use of the balance of funds approximately \$200K to be applied to the current year operating budget reductions. These funds will assist the campus in addressing critical services that support student success including the computer labs, library staffing, tutorial services, writing centers, and learning centers and sites.

### **Admended Budget Summary**

#### **Summary:**

The following is a revised summary of the general fund reductions, operating adjustments, excess revenue projections, and merit deferral.

General Fund Reduction at 4.5% (2007-2009):	(\$8,677,304.69)
Application of CSN proportion of iNtegrate Funds:	1,505,514
FY 2007-08	
1) Operating Budget Reductions:	2,292,245.00
2) Excess Student Fee Collection	<u>1,700,000.00</u>
Total FY 2007-08:	\$3,992,245.00
FY 2008-09	
1) HECC Deferred Maintenance:	\$ 917,000.00
2) Student Surcharge Assessment @\$2.75 per unit:	1,656,765.00
3) 6 Month Professional Merit Deferral	<u>605,781.00</u>
Total FY 2008-09:	\$3,179,546.00
Total 2007-08:	\$7,171,781.00

Mechanical engineers studying our three main campus have found significant problems with our heating and cooling systems. To resolve these problems before Fall semester, we are bidding the repairs for work to be done this spring and summer. Specifically, the "C" on the West Charleston campus will be taken off line this summer to replace its HVAC system. Repairs will also be needed on the Cheyenne campus and on the "B" building at Henderson. Currently, we do not expect the Cheyenne or Henderson facilities to be closed while the work proceeds.

**Appreciation to Faculty, Staff and Students**

During the recent meeting of the Board of Regents about 150 of our faculty, staff and students brought attention to the CSN budget situation and expressed verbally, on posters and by their presence that they wanted better funding for CSN and affordability preserved for students. About 80 people offered testimony on the issues, as the Regents took extra time to hear public comment. Each person involved in this, those who spoke, those who held signs, those whose quiet presence supported others was a positive reflection on CSN. There was passion with respect, heartfelt stories with dignity, and pleas for help and support with cogent arguments. February 7 was historic for us as we all pulled together for a common goal. My, I was proud of you all! Thank you! This is a very important start on a process that will take us to June of 2009, and it's a cause for which we cannot falter. It's our future!

The Northwest campus project cleared a major threshold on February 1 when the Investment Committee of the Board of Regents approved the Development Agreement and the design standards for the build out of the campus. The full Board ratified the committee's action on February 7. Now the City Council will act on the Agreement on February 20.

--Mike Richards