

11/7/05

Dear Colleagues:

I have been reluctant to send this message for some time because things keep changing. However, I think it is important to share what information I know at this point. Please understand the numbers and plans are subject to change.

The College of Business has been asked to plan for cuts totaling \$350,000 (5%) from this year's budget and \$455,000 (7%) from next year's budget. These numbers were given to us prior to Governor Blanco's announcement of her cuts. We may be asked to consider additional cuts once the legislative session is over.

I want to thank Stan Williamson, Tammy Parker, Keith Parker, Ruth Miller, Dot Davis, Lon Smith and Donna Luse for agreeing to serve on our College steering committee. I can assure you that everyone in the College that wants to help us through this challenge will have the opportunity to get involved and provide input. Paul Nelson has agreed to serve on the University Benchmark committee, which will have the task of looking at responses and strategies from universities that have faced similar cuts. John Rettenmayer, as faculty senate President, and I, as a representative for the Deans, have been asked to serve on the University Steering Committee.

In an effort to save on energy costs, President Cofer and members of his cabinet decided to implement a 4 1/2 day work week for the Spring semester. The University will close at noon on Fridays. Any classes that meet after noon on Fridays will be rescheduled. All 12 month employees, including administrative support personnel, will be required to work 40 hours during the shortened work week. No pay cuts will result because of this change. A 4 day work week for summer and next year is being considered.

The bids for the renovations of the Airway Sciences building have been opened. Currently, Dr. Richters plans on moving forward with the project which means we will be in the building for the Spring Semester. Funds for the renovation of the building are from private sources and are not subject to budget cuts.

I will keep you posted when more information is available.

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