MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 8, 2010

TO: The Campus Community

FROM: Horace Mitchell
President

SUBJECT: Governor’s 2010-11 Budget Proposal

I want to share two pieces of “good news” regarding the Governor’s 2010-11 budget proposal.

1. His policy statement reflects that he has heard our CSU policy advocacy messages which call on the State to place a higher priority on higher education than prisons in State funding. He proposes to reshape those policies:

   “California universities are known around the world as the crown jewel of California’s education system. Until recent years, California’s priorities were clear: the state dedicated approximately 10 percent of its General Fund to higher education and just three percent on prisons. Today, California spends more than 10 percent on prisons and seven percent on higher education.” The Governor is proposing to change our state’s constitution to permanently ensure this never happens again.

2. The budget proposal includes additional funding for the CSU. It includes the restoration of $305 million in “one-time” cuts taken in 2009-10 plus an additional $60.6 million for enrollment growth, contingent upon the State receiving a threshold amount in federal aid for other state programs.

While the additional funding will provide some flexibility, the proposed level of State funding is still below the level for 2007-08. The Trustees' budget request for 2010-11 seeks additional funding of $800 million over the 2009-10 level to fully restore all cuts, fund mandatory costs and fund enrollment growth.
Over the next few days, the Chancellor’s Office will provide an analysis of the specific implications of the Governor’s budget proposal for the CSU and CSUB. The CSU Board of Trustees will act on any change to their budget request when they meet on January 26 and 27.

Campus discussions with the Academic Senate and the Budget Advisory Committee will be held within the next two weeks, and a date will be set for another campus-wide budget forum later this month.

I know this is a time of great uncertainty and anxiety for the campus community. Additional information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.