

**Scott Mah**

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**From:** uwтчancelloremployees-bounces@mailman1.u.washington.edu on behalf of Office of the Chancellor [alinau@u.washington.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2010 3:48 PM  
**To:** uwтчancellorEmployees@u.washington.edu  
**Subject:** [uwтчancellor:employees] Notes from the All Campus Forum

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Campus Community:

In the spirit of continually revising and improving our communications, last Tuesday we held an all-campus forum in Philip Hall. Beth Rushing (Academic Affairs) and I relayed news and updates on issues such as the budget, legislative actions, over-enrollment and upcoming new academic programs. We then called for questions from the floor and spoke about an array of topics. I'd like to share the information we discussed with those of you who were unable to attend.

We are arranging several opportunities for discussion with the campus community, including holding two more campus forums, in March and May (see details below). At those times, we will know more about many of these topics. Look for Chancellor's Line messages following these forums.

*Inside Track*, our faculty-staff news blog, will be sending blogs live from the forum on both days. If you can't attend but have a question you'd like to pose to Beth or me, you have several options. Email either Beth at [brushing@uw.edu](mailto:brushing@uw.edu), or myself at [pspakes@uw.edu](mailto:pspakes@uw.edu), email *Inside Track* [[uwтnews.uw.edu](mailto:uwтnews.uw.edu)], or drop us a note in campus mail, and we'll try to answer those questions at the forums.

I also hold Coffee with the Chancellor sessions with small groups of staff members. These are by invitation, but you can request an invitation by emailing Alina at [alinau@uw.edu](mailto:alinau@uw.edu)

**All campus forums will be held in Philip Hall**

Tuesday, March 2, 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Wednesday, May 12, 12:30 to 2 p.m.

## **Brown bag with Pat and Beth for the faculty in Philip Hall**

Monday, Feb. 22, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 16, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Here are the bullet points from the campus forum on Tuesday.

### **Budget**

- There is no definitive news on a final budget yet. The state Legislature still has a lot of work to do before we have definition.
- Governor Gregoire has submitted two state budgets. The first budget substantially cuts our State Need Grants, which are used for grants to low-income students, from \$4.9 million to \$2.8 million a 57 percent reduction. The governor's second budget would restore those funds by increasing taxes.
- The governor's budgets propose cutting \$1.3 million from UW Tacoma. That's a 3.5 percent reduction of our total operating budget. Assuming that we maintain current enrollment levels, the planned tuition increase for next year could cover that budget reduction.
- We are making a strong case to the Legislature that the universities should be able to set our own resident undergraduate tuition. We need to balance the cost of education with revenue. We're already at the point where the students share is higher than the state's share, and our state budget is cut more every year.
- Throughout the intensive budget planning we did last year, all groups—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members—said that our number one priority should be protecting academic quality. So that's what we did. While all areas of the campus took budget cuts, the cuts for academic programs were generally smaller than those taken in other areas. The effects of the budget cuts have been very painful for many on campus. We have reviewed the reduction process and what we learned from our experience last year so we can make changes if we ever need to reduce our budget again.

### **Legislature**

- The Legislature is considering a number of bills that would affect higher education, if they were to be enacted. Among the proposals are those that would expand baccalaureate degrees at community colleges (2655), eliminate the HEC Board

(Higher Education Coordinating) (3057), furlough state employees for 14 days (6503), and grant state universities authority to set tuition, with some constraints imposed by the Legislature (6562).

- We are requesting permission from the Legislature to issue bonds so that we can construct the building on Jefferson Street that will finish Phase 3 of our campus build-out plan. We're proposing a \$7 million bond against student fees and retail income. We'll know in March if we get that permission and will start construction soon after.

### **Financial aid**

- The tuition flexibility bill includes a requirement that some of the tuition funds be used for financial aid. We are serious about trying to offset increased tuition with increased financial aid. We're trying to raise \$900,000 from donors that would go directly to UWT scholarships, not to the endowment. Thus far we have been successful in this effort.

- If we can get control of tuition, we'll increase financial aid in the forms of grants and scholarships, not loans.

- Some proposals for financial aid being floated around the Legislature include stronger financial aid revisions, working to broaden the definition of students who are eligible for state financial aid to capture more of the middle class. I'm hoping that the best ideas will come together into a bill.

### **Over-enrollment**

- Our state-funded FTE for this year is 2,414. In fall we enrolled 2,672 FTE, and in winter we enrolled 2,680 FTE. That's about 10 percent over-enrollment.

- The extra tuition money we got from over-enrollment was used to hire more faculty in programs with the most significant impacts. All of these monies are not currently in hand and we hope to have the remainder of these funds by March. If there is any excess tuition money when the last quarter's tuition revenues are returned to the campus in June, they will be rolled forward to help with next year's budget.

### **New programs**

- Beth Rushing noted the programs currently in line for approval: criminal justice; history; Hispanic studies; writing studies; sustainable urban development; masters in community and metropolitan studies; and converting IAS concentrations to majors. She noted that while we have developed strong momentum with regard to proposals for new programs, the current budget climate may prevent our ability to implement new programs once they are approved. We have a three-year window to implement

them before the HECB approval expires.

- We can't make definite plans for growth in the immediate future until we know the outcome of the Legislative budget and whether we will be given control of tuition. For next year, we anticipate no growth in campus FTE.

THIS E-MAIL MESSAGE WAS SENT BY:

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