

January 23, 2010

Dear Students,

You are no doubt aware of California's budget deficit. The CSU (California State University system) is facing a **\$585 million** reduction in funding. The cut to San Jose State alone is approximately **\$40 million**. By cutting back on salaries for administrators, managers, staff workers, maintenance workers, nurses, instructors, librarians, etc., our campus can make up most but not all of the \$40 million shortfall.

Most of the workers mentioned above voted for a **furlough** plan, which means that the workers will see a **9.23% reduction in pay** and a corresponding reduction in workload. This semester you will see the whole campus closed on designated days. The faculty will also personally select 6 furlough days for the semester, which we must designate in writing. It is illegal for us to do any work on a furlough day, no returning or taking phone calls, no reading emails, no grading papers, no prepping for class, *nothing*.

You are paying more for your education now than ever before. Instructors may have to cancel some class meetings. (*Ask me how 101, 113 & 10 have changed because of these furloughs!*) Many course sections cannot be offered and have been cancelled. Many lecturers have lost their jobs. Please know that this situation is outrageous and heartbreaking for us. We want you to have the best academic preparation possible, but that goal is becoming more difficult to reach given the economic realities we all face. The furlough agreement between the CSU administration and the faculty states that "cuts of this magnitude will naturally have consequences for the quality of education we can provide..."

Dr. Katherine D. Harris' Furlough Days (Spring 2010)*

Friday, Jan 29
Monday, Feb 15 (*all faculty*)
Friday, Feb 26 (*all faculty*)
Wednesday, March 10 (no office hours)
Thursday, March 25 (no class meeting)
Wednesday, April 21 (no office hours)
Thursday, April 29 (no class meeting)
Thursday, May 6 (no class meeting; *all faculty*)
Monday, May 10

*My furlough schedule is also available on my faculty website: www.sjsu.edu/faculty/harris

We encourage you to step up and get involved in your higher education, your future, and the future of California. Contact your state legislators and tell them what you think. Contact our Governor. Attend the rallies and events that will occur on campus this semester. By taking action, we can make change!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

To find state legislators' contact information, visit www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capital Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-2841
Fax: 916-558-3160
Email: <http://gov.ca.gov/interact>

Dr. Charles B. Reed, CSU Chancellor
California State University
401 Golden Shore, Rm. 641
Long Beach, CA 90802
Phone: 562-951-4700
Fax: 562-951-4986

For CSU Board of Trustees contact information, visit www.calstate.edu/bot/addresslist.shtml