

Morehead State to save \$1 million by cutting five administrative posts

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Morehead State University will save \$1 million by cutting five upper level administration positions, another belt tightening move amid state budget cuts and rising pension costs.

Earlier this month, Morehead President Jay Morgan announced the school would offer voluntary buyouts to up to 25

employees.

Last week, the Morehead State Board of Regents approved cutting the five administrative posts, including:

- Vice President for Administration. Morgan said the current vice president, Beth Patrick, is leaving April 30.

- Facility Management Director. This position's duties will now be handled by Procurement Director Andrea Fryman..

- Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement. The person in this role is being moved to another position.

- Associate Vice President for Academic Success. This position is currently empty.

- Assistant Vice President for Regional Engagement. This position is currently empty.

"This shows that Presi-



Jay Morgan

dent Morgan is sincere when he says that he is looking at all areas, all units of Morehead State, in cutting costs in order to make us more efficient going forward

and preparing us for what lies ahead," said Suzanne Tallichet, chairwoman of Morehead's faculty senate. "We applaud his efforts and will continue to work with

him in these uncertain times."

In Gov. Matt Bevin's proposed state budget budget, Morehead faces a 6.25 percent cut, or \$2.5 million, in state funding on top of a possible \$2.7 million increase in pension payments. With fixed cost increases, the actual deficit could be as much as \$9 million in each of the next two years. The school also faces dropping enrollment because it draws heavily from Eastern Kentucky, where the economy has been decimated by the coal industry's decline.

All eight public universities are facing dire

financial straits because of a decade's worth of budget cuts, and regional universities are further hampered by big jumps in pension obligations to Kentucky's ailing state pension systems. The University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville have self-funded retirement systems.

Last week, Western Kentucky University announced it would cut 140 positions.

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