

Thursday, April 14, 2016 3:32 PM

Colleagues,

If you have been following the news regarding the state budget closely, you may already know that the leaders of the House and Senate conference committee came to an agreement early this morning (Thursday, April 14). The General Assembly will vote on the \$21 billion spending plan for the next biennium on Friday (April 15) before it moves on to Governor Bevin. You are keenly aware that there are a number of items we have monitored closely given the significant impact they may have on MSU, our students, our employees, and our retirees. As it stands currently, the budget contains these key pieces, among others:

- more than \$1 billion for the state's public pension systems (KTRS, KERS)
- a permanent pension fund created after an audit of the retirement agencies
- 4.5 percent cuts for higher education in the biennium, with Kentucky State University held exempt
- about \$25 million for a Work Ready Kentucky scholarship program for schools that offer associate degrees
- a component of performance-based funding for postsecondary institutions in the second year of the biennium, which will represent less than 25 percent of funding

Governor Bevin can line-item veto spending bills; however, Senate President Stivers has indicated given the amount of effort that has gone into this compromise he does not see foresee many objections. I am personally appreciative of the work done by the leadership of both the House and Senate to move Kentucky forward during this difficult budget situation. Many of you have noted the crisis our counterparts in Illinois are facing, and I am thankful we will not enter the new fiscal year without a state budget.

That being said, we still have more work to do here. As I have shared previously, careful and critical analysis shows we will face a budget deficit in the coming year, and the Budget Planning & Advisory Task Force has completed their work on recommendations to address this shortfall. I am reviewing these recommendations and will share information with the campus community as soon as any decisions are made.

Morehead State University is a great place. We are all educators, regardless of our roles. What you do each day makes a difference in the lives of our students and the communities we serve. It is my hope that we each keep that at the forefront of our thinking as we approach this difficult, but not insurmountable, situation together. I

appreciate your thoughtful comments, ideas and concerns as we continue this journey together. I will host open forums on the following dates next week:

Tuesday, April 19, 8 am, Crager Room, ADUC

Wednesday, April 20, 3:00 pm, Breck 002

You may also share your comments, ideas and concerns with me at [president@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:president@moreheadstate.edu).

Wayne D. Andrews

President