

Colleagues,

I wanted to take this opportunity to follow up after the two Budget Forums that were held earlier this week. I appreciate that many of you found time in your busy schedules to attend and learn more about the process. The presentations from the vice presidents provided an overview of how we approached the work and the dialogue following was engaging and meaningful.

As I noted in my previous email, the Cabinet has made significant progress toward developing a balanced budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Thoughtful and prudent decisions have been made to minimize impact on the core work of the institution and to maintain our focus on academic excellence and student success. All details are not final, but we believe we are close to what will be presented at the work session of the Board of Regents on May 11, with final approval pending by the BOR on June 8.

I know this has been a difficult year, and we have faced many challenges. I am very much aware of the personal impact the furlough and salary reduction (which will be completed June 30, 2017) had on our faculty and staff. While this budget is not ideal, I am thankful we were able to mitigate the upcoming budget shortfall without having to exercise these options again.

The importance of performance funding on the financial future of the institution cannot be overstated. I mentioned there would be forums to discuss the details of the performance funding model in the future. Given where we are in the spring semester, these will be held in the fall.

I remain encouraged about where we are as an institution, the work we do, and where we are headed in the future. What you do truly matters in the lives of our students, and for that I am grateful.

Sincerely,

Wayne D. Andrews
President