

23 July 2009

Dear CI Student:

As our mission states, Channel Islands places students at the center of all that we do. However, we are faced with unprecedented budget challenges and I write to share with you how this will affect your upcoming academic year.

As you may know, the CSU Board of Trustees made a difficult budgetary decision on Tuesday that will impact CI and our sister campuses throughout the system. These decisions are a result of the state's reduced support to the CSU as lawmakers contend with closing California's \$26.3 billion budget gap. Measures to meet the deficit at CI will include a combination of an increase in student fees, furloughs for many employees, and limits on student enrollment.

Starting fall 2009, fees will increase \$672 annually for full-time undergraduate students and \$828 annually for graduate students. There will also be a \$990 annual tuition increase for full-time non-resident students. CSU undergraduate students will pay approximately \$4,827 per year (which includes an average campus fee of \$801).

While these are the lowest fees among comparable institutions nationally, the CSU and CI are taking measures to mitigate the effect on students. One-third of the fee increase will be set aside for financial aid. This set-aside, as well as increases in financial aid included in the federal stimulus package, is expected to cover the fee increase for 187,000 of CSU's 450,000 total students. The CSU also expects to receive an additional \$81 million in Pell Grant awards for its neediest students, a welcome addition since the CSU is the largest recipient of Pell awards in the country with more than 120,000 students receiving grants. In addition, federal tax credits, increased work study and student loan improvements will also offset the fee increase for many students. Financial aid and federal tax credits will also be available for many other students, including those with family incomes of up to \$180,000. A list of frequently asked questions to assist in answering your financial aid questions has been posted at: [www.csuci.edu/budget2009](http://www.csuci.edu/budget2009).

Trustees approved employee furloughs at each of the 23 campuses in order to save the maximum number of jobs possible. I, along with management and administrative staff will be furloughed two days a month through June 2010. In addition, the CSU is in the process of negotiating furloughs with several of its bargaining units as their labor agreements do not include provisions for furloughs. We do not yet know the results of all of these negotiations but hope to by the end of this month.

Employee furloughs at CI will be assigned so there is minimal disruption and confusion to students and will take into consideration a reasonable class schedule. Individual course objectives will be met even if there are changes to class schedules due to furloughs. The furloughs may result in reduced hours or the closure of some offices or areas on campus; however campus safety offices and personnel will not be affected. While the specifics of furlough implementation are still being discussed, students will be notified before school starts with information placed on the campus website, posted within buildings, and email updates.

Depending on bargaining unit actions and adoption of the state budget, CI may also be looking at layoffs and operational cuts. The campus will maintain a salary freeze for me and the vice presidents, a hiring freeze for non-essential positions, impose employee travel restrictions, and restrict non-critical equipment and supply purchases. **Students and instruction will remain our top priority as we determine where additional reductions can be made.**

During these difficult economic times, my highest priority is to continue serving students as best we can to the extent possible with the resources provided.

I will continue to keep you informed of further developments as we receive them. Please know that faculty, staff, and administrators at CI will strive to provide you with the quality education that is the hallmark of this campus.

Sincerely yours,  
Richard R. Rush  
President