



October 31, 2007

FGCU will achieve its budget cut for 2007-08 through the following:

(1) Freshman Enrollment Freeze. We will enact an enrollment freeze on freshmen beginning with the spring 2008 semester, as outlined by the BOG: "Freeze freshman enrollment growth (at current funded levels) statewide for a three-year period beginning with the spring 2008 and fall 2008-09 admissions. Hold harmless community college AA transfers." For FGCU, we enrolled about 1,900 new freshmen for fall 2007. A three-year freeze on our freshman enrollment means that we will accept no more than 1,900 freshmen each of these years. This is in stark contrast to our projected freshman enrollment for the coming years - as an example, for fall 2008, we were projecting 2,200 freshmen. This means we will have to turn away 300 freshmen next year alone.

(2) Class Size Increases. We have increased class sizes beginning fall 2007 semester. Currently, the average FGCU class size is 27 students. Given the budget cut, our target will be to increase this by 18% for an average class size of 32 students.

(3) Low Enrollment Courses. We will cancel any low enrollment courses, with the exception of cancellations that would jeopardize students' graduation needs.

(4) Graduate Student Waivers. For 2007-08 we were planning on awarding \$200,000 in waivers for graduate students. We will cut this to \$100,000.

(5) New Academic Programs. We will carefully evaluate plans for any new academic degree programs to determine whether new resources would be needed for implementation.

(6) Hiring Freeze. We will implement an immediate hiring freeze on all faculty and staff positions except those that are mission critical. The hiring freeze will not affect grant-funded positions.

(7) Position Reclassifications. We will suspend employee position reclassifications, unless specifically authorized by an area vice president.

(8) Professional Development and Travel. We will tighten expenditures for professional development and travel on behalf of FGCU. Each area vice president will have to approve in advance any professional development or travel.

(9) University Lecture Series. We will evaluate the popular University Lecture Series for spring 2008 and decrease the amount allocated for the honorarium.

(10) Plant Operations. Campus building thermostats are currently set at 71-74 degrees. We will increase this to 74-77 degrees to save money as part of the budget cuts. We also are considering efficiencies that may be found in consolidating classes into fewer buildings for the summer semesters beginning with 2008.

(11) Administrators Teaching. We are encouraging senior administrators with academic rank to engage in some FGCU teaching activity in their respective discipline, with no compensation for doing so. Administrators with faculty rank have picked up numerous course sections without additional compensation.

(12) Tuition Increase. We will ask the FGCU Board of Trustees to approve a 5% increase in undergraduate tuition and fees to begin with spring 2008, in accordance with this BOG adopted action: "Raise undergraduate tuition and fees, not to exceed 5 percent, for spring 2008, while continuing to review with the Board of Governors help programmatic issues, cutbacks, efficiencies at the universities."

(13) Improved scheduling to maximize use of existing facilities.

In closing, these are very difficult decisions for FGCU, with significant implications for our students, faculty, staff and greater communities. I am very concerned about what these budget cuts portend for FGCU's future as we strive to provide the access to higher education in Southwest Florida for which we were created. We will do our best to ensure that continued high quality is at the heart of our decision-making for budget reductions, even if this has the unintended consequence of decreased access for students, and slower development of the FGCU we are building together to meet the needs of the growing Southwest Florida economy.

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard Peggnetter
Interim President
Florida Gulf Coast University