Frequently Asked Questions

I heard the governor cut university budgets for FY 2016 in March by 3 percent. How does that impact us?

WSU has to cut the general use budget by $2,228,257 for the fiscal year ending June 30. Vice presidents and deans are evaluating those reductions.

What about layoffs or furloughs?

It is our top priority to avoid furloughs or layoffs. I told the Unclassified Professional Staff meeting on April 14: “Everything we’re doing is to keep that (layoffs or furloughs) from happening. Let’s maintain our people and maintain our community ... everything else is negotiable.”

Besides people, what else will be protected from cuts?

The next highest priority is maintaining and growing enrollment. That’s a combination of retaining current students (until they graduate or get the badge or certificate they’re seeking) and attracting new students. As we are able, we will continue to invest in that area.

Is the university giving raises in FY 2017?

In the light of expected cuts in support from the State of Kansas, we aren’t planning an across-the-board pay increase in FY 2017.

What has been done to reduce spending?

Here’s our initial response to the state’s actions:

- Freeze on non-required spending from general use funds.
- President’s Executive Team approval of all contract spending above $5,000. No splitting of purchases to circumvent the $5,000 threshold.
- The President’s Executive Team must approve all non-faculty new hires.
- All current job postings will be reviewed by the President’s Executive Team, as well as all new job searches before they can be posted.

Please note, current construction projects will be completed, and current contractual agreements will be fulfilled.

If we are so short on money, why is work continuing on the Innovation Campus?

The money being used for construction on the Innovation Campus is dedicated for that purpose and not available for general use. A federal grant for Innovation Campus infrastructure is being used for utilities and roads. Bonds were also issued, and that money can only be used to build the Experiential Engineering Building. The Partnership Building for Airbus is being built with private funds.

Why are we continuing to spend in athletics, Rhatigan Student Center, parking and other areas not central to the academic mission?

Those are among the auxiliary operations that aren’t funded by the state. We also have some state-funded areas such as repair and maintenance, where funds are designated and can’t be used for anything else.

How can we increase revenue to offset the impact of state cutbacks?

The three sources of funding we can affect are tuition/fees (by retaining and attracting more students); research and grants contracts; and donated funds. Faculty and staff can have a great impact in each of those areas.
I have a great idea for saving money, who do I send my idea to?
Please send your idea to president@wichita.edu and it will shared with appropriate individuals and departments.