

Letter from President Glick

Dear Colleagues,

As we enter spring semester, we continue to balance the goals of our University with the challenges of our budget. Many of you have participated in town halls, Faculty Senate meetings, Staff Employees Council and other forums to share budget saving ideas. With your help, we have made real progress in cutting our budget and streamlining our operations. I thank each of you for all you have done on behalf of the University. It is the collegial spirit on campus that makes these difficult times bearable.

Many of you have dedicated the majority of your careers to education and have worked tirelessly to make the University of Nevada, Reno a quality institution. The next few months will be difficult. I ask you to continue to have faith in the future and continue working to make us even better.

We have already cut more than \$24 million in anticipation of the fiscal year 2010 budget, and we face even more tough decisions. Governor Gibbons outlined his proposed budget in last night's State of the State address. As mandated by law, the budget is balanced and includes substantial reductions for many state agencies, especially higher education. We should all remember that the governor's recommendations are just the beginning of a budget process. Over the next few months the budget will go through many revisions before being finalized at the end of the legislative session.

I continue to believe that the leadership and the citizens of the state want higher education to be strong. Indeed the future of Nevada can only be ensured by having quality elementary, secondary and higher education systems. In the twenty-first century, education is the critical infrastructure. While the proposed budget cannot be done without doing dramatic, long-term damage to the University of Nevada, Reno and to Nevada's educational system, there is some positive news. The Governor has recommended bonding for critical capital projects that will allow us to move forward.

We understand that everyone is hurting and we must do our fair share. As we reduce the budget, we must also work to protect the future of the citizens of Nevada and their opportunities for an education. As much as we would like the circumstances to be different, the reality is that we are facing very difficult decisions. We are still in the process of analyzing the proposed budget and the impact it has on us. We do know the reduced appropriation would represent a reduction for the institution as a whole of at least 35 percent. Mobilizing ourselves and our constituents will be an important part of communicating the needs of the University if we are to serve the future of the state.

The next few months will be critical to the future of higher education in Nevada. We will all need to make the case for a more appropriate budget for the University of Nevada, Reno and for higher education in general. There is a pre-legislative hearing on January 27 and a Board of Regents meeting February 5 – 6 that may provide details on the proposed budget. We continue to seek your ideas and hear directly from you. We will have a town hall meeting on Thursday, February 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the Joe Crowley Student Union to talk more about the budget issues facing us. Please plan to attend and be part of the conversation.

Best regards,

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