

*To the Seattle Community Colleges –*

As the state's economic situation continues to worsen, state agencies have been asked to prepare for the 2009-11 budget cycle.

The state Office of Financial Management has asked state agencies, including the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, for budget reduction scenarios outlining the effects of a 20% cut to our budgets.

In a memo to colleges, the State Board said that the request "clearly signals the seriousness of the situation we face in the next biennium."

The State Board has been asked –

- What would the impacts be to the system?
- What should tuition increases be?
- Should reductions be taken across the board?
- Should enrollment targets be reduced?

This request is very preliminary, and we don't have any answers at this time. On Wednesday, Nov. 19, our college presidents and I will discuss the OFM request. The State Board has also scheduled telephone conference calls with college presidents across the state. In addition, much depends on the next state revenue forecast due on Nov. 19.

I want you to know that we are all very concerned about this financial situation, and I will keep you updated as we receive information. We are hopeful that our governor and legislators will continue to realize that community colleges are part of the solution to resolving the economic crisis in our state.

Chancellor Charles H. Mitchell