



A letter from the College President regarding Los Angeles City College's Budget Crisis

To the Los Angeles City College Community:

I am sure by now many of you are aware of the \$7.5 million deficit facing Los Angeles City College (LACC). As we move forward to address our deficit, we have had to make difficult decisions which impact the entire campus. I am writing this letter to dispel myths and rumors regarding claims that the college is retaliating against any group, person or program in balancing its budget. To date, LACC has cut instruction by \$5 million for the fiscal year, eliminating our Winter and Summer sessions and reducing the Spring schedule by 26 percent. Our categorical programs like that of matriculation, EOP&S and DSPS have already taken 16-42 percent in cuts. This was all done through our shared governance process which encompasses the leadership of the college community. While I know these decisions were not easy they were made to ensure that we meet our statutory obligation as a public institution to balance the budget. I am proud of the work of the committee and I appreciate the tremendous sacrifice of our students, faculty and staff in this process.

It is during a time of crisis with limited resources that we must remember that the core mission of the institution is to provide quality academic and student support services. We must remain focused in order to accomplish our goal. Before we sling attacks full of misinformation, we need to be responsible in arming ourselves with facts. In 2008-09 Los Angeles City College's annual budget was \$61 million (the college overspent that by \$2 million) and in 2009-10 the budget was reduced to \$55 million. The administration and leadership of this campus are dealing with the results of a \$26 billion statewide budget deficit that removed billions of dollars from K-14 education. We are regionalizing key programs, implementing a hiring freeze, and designing budgets so that key areas can become self-sufficient. We are doing all of this in an effort to protect services and education to our neediest students. LACC administration and campus leadership are not targeting programs, we are not shutting down the newspaper nor is this retaliation, this is budgeting in a time of crisis.

I understand that people are concerned about any and all cuts to the college's budget. And it is not unusual for any program to feel targeted when its budget is cut because what each and every program on campus does is uniquely valuable to our students. We all care deeply about the services and educational opportunities we provide. Everyone on this campus -- faculty, staff and administrators -- are pained by the difficult decisions we have been forced to make at a time when our students and our community need us most. All I ask is that during these difficult times, we continue to recognize that we are a "community," not just a college. This is a time when we need to come together as a community to do what is best for the students we serve, not be divided by the fears that naturally develop when financial constraints force us to reduce costs and, as a result, services. The Collegian is a vital part of that community and the college will continue to support the newspaper's ability to play its part in what we do.

So, while I realize that we cannot stop or ignore the misinformation that some will continue to disseminate to serve their own agendas, I hope that you will take the time to examine such claims before you make the mistake that so many have made of believing what is clearly and logically untrue and feel free to ask when you have questions. The kinds of changes that budget crises bring also bring many questions and, as always, I will provide whatever information is available.

Finally, thank you all for the work you do every day and the incredible dedication that you have shown to our students during these trying times. It is because of that dedication that we are able to continue being the outstanding institution we are, even as forces all around us come together to test our strength. LACC has always been a unique and special place within the Los Angeles community and will continue to be so.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jamillah Moore
President, Los Angeles City College