

August 25, 2009

Dear Students,

You are no doubt aware of California's budget deficit. The CSU (California State University system) is facing a **\$585 million** reduction in funding. The cut to San Jose State alone is approximately **\$40 million**. By cutting back on salaries for administrators, managers, staff workers, maintenance workers, nurses, instructors, librarians, etc., our campus can make up most but not all of the \$40 million shortfall.

Most of the workers mentioned above voted for a **furlough** plan, which means that the workers will see a **9.23% reduction in pay** and a corresponding reduction in workload. This semester you will see the whole campus closed on designated days. The faculty will also personally select 6 furlough days for the semester, which we must designate in writing. It is illegal for us to do any work on a furlough day, no returning or taking phone calls, no reading emails, no grading papers, no prepping for class, *nothing*.

You are paying more for your education now than ever before. Instructors may have to cancel some class meetings. (*Ask me how 100W, 101 & 149 have changed because of these furloughs!*) Many course sections cannot be offered and have been cancelled. Many lecturers have lost their jobs. Please know that this situation is outrageous and heartbreaking for us. We want you to have the best academic preparation possible, but that goal is becoming more difficult to reach given the economic realities we all face. The furlough agreement between the CSU administration and the faculty states that "cuts of this magnitude will naturally have consequences for the quality of education we can provide..."

Dr. Katherine D. Harris' Furlough Days (Fall 2009)*

Thursday, Sept. 10 (no class meeting)
Tuesday, Sept. 22 (no class meeting; *all faculty*)
Wednesday, Oct 14 (no office hours)
Monday, Oct 19 (*all faculty*)
Thursday, Nov 5 (no class meeting)
Friday, Nov 13 (*all faculty*)
Wednesday, Nov 25 (no office hours)
Wednesday, Dec 2 (no office hours)
Friday, December 11

*My furlough schedule is also available on my faculty website: www.sjsu.edu/faculty/harris

We encourage you to step up and get involved in your higher education, your future, and the future of California. Contact your state legislators and tell them what you think. Contact our Governor. Attend the rallies and events that will occur on campus this semester. By taking action, we can make change!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

To find state legislators' contact information, visit www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html

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