



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 4, 2009  
TO: SSCC Community  
FROM: Gary Oertli, Interim President  
RE: Budget Update

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Waiting for the legislature to resolve the state's budget issues will continue to test our nerves, so I want to keep sharing any new information about the situation.

Unfortunately, we face uncertainty about our 2009-2011 budget until the legislature completes its session, scheduled for April 26 – but which could last much longer. Passing a budget is almost always the final thing done. Other unknowns include any positive impact from federal stimulus package funds, whether there will be a tuition increase and, if so, how much, and what our FTE target will be.

Regardless of the situation, we have to prepare a budget for next year. At South we will move ahead with our usual participative budget development process, led by the College Council. **Our annual budget kick-off meeting is Tuesday, March 10, at 1:30 p.m. in the Olympic Hall Auditorium, OLY 120.** Though we don't know the final target, we are planning for a 10 percent reduction in the college budget.

There is more certainty about the rest of this fiscal year. On February 18 the legislature passed, and the governor signed into law, a supplementary budget for the period through June 30. It confirmed the spending cuts and restrictions already ordered throughout state government. South's reduction plan is already in place. Interpretation of specific legislative requirements is underway now. Most of the directives and Q&A information is available on South's web site, from a link on the main page. We are continuing to post information as it becomes available. Here is the link: <http://www.southseattle.edu/budgetactions.htm>

At South we are closely managing our expenses. We expect to meet our enrollment targets. However, in cases where there is low registration, some spring quarter classes have been cancelled, which is our normal process. No classes have been cut because of budget trimming. And, because of our optimism about our future, I have recommended granting tenure for three faculty members who have completed the process.

It is important to continue open communication about what we face, and I look forward to participating in more college-wide budget forums hosted by the College Council, chaired by Jo Anderson. In addition, you can send questions or comments to me, and I am happy to meet separately with groups to talk about how we can meet this challenge together.

GO:wn