

Friends - There has been a flurry of activity in the Legislature this week, particularly in regard to the budget process.

Recently I contacted you with news of potential additional cuts to the University system. Since that time however, the Appropriations Committee negotiated a proposal that would make 2% cuts to most state agencies, which are in addition to last special session's cuts of 5%.

The good news for us is that the University is not one of those agencies facing an additional 2% cut, and we appreciate the Appropriations Committee recognizing higher education as a priority for the state. The bad news is that the state's fiscal situation for the next few years remains cloudy and many senators believe that there will need to be drastic cuts made in future years. Whether or not those fears will hold true is unknown at this time.

The Legislature advanced legislative bill 935 to the last stage of on Thursday, March 18. This final stage will likely be a formality as we believe senators have had little disagreement on the Appropriations Committee's recommendation. If it passes, and we expect it will, the bill will be presented to the Governor for his approval.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our University.

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