

**USFSP BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE MEETING: 5/21/2008
4:30 – 5:25 PM - Bay 220**

Members Present:

Kathy Agne
Chris D'Elia
Ashok Dhingra
Ernie Gonzales
Julie Jakway

Norine Noonan (conference call)
Steve Ritch
Trisha Rothman
Michael Williams

Dr. Dhingra, on behalf of Regional Chancellor White shared the Budget Reduction Plan of 15% and the Budget cut of 10.6% for the USF SP, as promised, first with the Budget Council before it was announced to the university community. At the end of this meeting a communiqué on the budget will be sent by the Chancellor.

The USF System directed its institutions to develop budget reduction plans at 15% of the 2007-08 base allocation. Today, President Genshaft announced budget reduction plans at the system level; the total USF base budget reduction from July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008 is \$35.6 million or a cut of 10.6% in recurring funds. In accordance with the strategic priorities, Dr. White has preserved positions for **all tenured and tenure-earning faculty** at our institution. See Regional Chancellor Karen White's communiqué dated May 21, 2008 at:

<http://www.stpt.usf.edu/chancellor/08Budget/Chancellor-mail-21-2008.pdf>

In August of 2007, our first budget reduction of **4%** in the amount of \$1.2 million was implemented. Today, another **6.6%** budget reduction in the amount of \$1.9 million, was approved and becomes operational on July 1, 2008 (total cut at 10.6% is approximately \$ 3.1 million).

Recommended cuts according to strategic priorities held positions vacant (filling only the critical positions through employees' whose positions were to be eliminated), and RVCs, and Deans have been proactive in placement of current employees in new roles both on campus and elsewhere within the USF system.

The adopted Budget Reduction Guidelines ([see link below](#)) will:

- protect the quality of student learning
- support faculty and students' research
- protect USF SP financial integrity
- streamline university operations
- protect and support value of our employees

http://www.stpt.usf.edu/chancellor/08Budget/Guiding%20Principles%20for%20Budgeting%20USFSPAshok3_18%20_2_.pdf

Although positions will be eliminated, employee layoffs at USF St. Petersburg will be limited to three individuals at this time. Cost savings of approximately one million dollars will be realized from utilities, travel, supplies, equipment and reduction of contractual services. Although personnel represent 80 % of the budget, the strategic reduction in personnel is only 67% of the total reduction amount thus clearly supporting our institutional values as adopted by the Budget Council.

University employees impacted by the budget cuts will be assisted by Human Resources department at USF SP through both internal and County services.

Dr. Dhingra shared the information regarding the closing of the University of South Florida during the holiday week and one other Friday, the following week as announced by President Genshaft. This helps to partially support an initiative originally offered by Dr. Steve Ritch of closing the university on five Fridays to affect savings as well as improve employees' morale. This decision by the president covers two of the five days that we had discussed in the Budget Council.

Drs. D'Elia and Dhingra both stated that the productivity here at USFSP is going to be much higher next year as the institution will be accomplishing more with 10.6% less resources. We resolve to remain positive during these difficult economic times in our State of Florida. Dr. Dhingra then thanked everyone who worked hard in developing this budget plan. The work of the Budget Council and Budget Saving Ideas from university constituents did indeed help the Institution develop a plan with the least impact on our employees i.e. the university staff, administration and faculty.