

April 22, 2008

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students, USF St. Petersburg

From: Karen White

Re: Budget update

As you know, President Genshaft requested USF St. Petersburg to create a budget reduction plan that would decrease our state supported budget by 15%. Over the past few weeks the Budget Council and administration have been working to achieve this goal.

The USF St. Petersburg Budget Council established guiding principles that include: fair treatment of all colleagues, maintaining the quality of the student experience and student learning, support of research and creative activity, and protection of the financial integrity of the university. I support their recommendations and will work to meet these goals.

Having already implemented a 4% budget cut in July of 2007, our current goal is 11%. We held open many of the institution's vacant positions in the past year in order to minimize the impact of this anticipated reduction. You have provided excellent suggestions for cost savings which have been prioritized by the Budget Committee; several will be implemented in the near future.

In a meeting yesterday with deans and vice chancellors, we determined our highest priorities and created a phased process for the total budget reduction. We ended in philosophical agreement to preserve quality education and service to students and delineated a process to achieve that goal.

Regardless of the budget cuts, we will remain a true university offering high quality education, research, and professional outreach. Our campus community's spirit and enthusiasm will be tested during a time of fewer resources.

I thank each of you for your continued creative and positive actions to preserve the quality of our students' collegiate experience and to maintain a climate of mutual support.

Karen A. White
Regional Chancellor