

Chancellor Philip R. Day, Jr., outlines conservation measures to cover increases in natural gas costs

By Dr. Philip R. Day, Jr.

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This is a follow-up to my earlier communication regarding energy blackouts and conservation. It appears as though our billings for natural gas are increasing at an exponential rate, which requires us to seriously contemplate some conservation measures that we had not planned on. Specifically, if the rate of utilization continues at the current rate and we have to purchase natural gas at the cost we are now expected to pay, it is likely that the total cost for the balance of the year will exceed our original budgeted amount by \$800 - \$900K. That represents a significant and unexpected hit to our budget.

We are working at the state level with the Board of Governors and the legislature to try to get budgetary relief both for this year and next. Frankly, they are so absorbed with what they view as the larger issues that they aren't giving attention to other areas impacted. So, in the absence of any outside assistance to help us budgetarily, City College is left to sort through this problem on its own.

Accordingly, I am asking for your cooperation and most importantly, understanding. The following steps will be/are being considered in an effort to conserve energy, reduce expenditures, and accommodate the increasing institutional burden associated with California's energy crisis:

1) Thermostats will be lowered to an appropriate level and unfortunately, we are going to have to reduce the use of space heaters because that is presenting another set of challenges;

2) The College is seriously considering a complete shutdown of operations over the spring break (that decision will come shortly);

3) The newly expanded week-end Sunday hours of the Rosenberg Library will have to be eliminated effective the weekend of February 10, 2001. Consideration is also being given to reducing hours on the "front-end" of Saturday (we currently are open from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.) although that decision has not been made yet because we want to look at the level of student impact and utilization during that time-frame;

4) The level of spending in non-personnel areas will have to be curtailed in order for us to accommodate the budget increases in the energy area until such time as we hear from the State about

some sort of "relief plan" for colleges, universities, and the K-12 sector. Expenditures for travel, supplies, and non-essential equipment purchases are going to have to be seriously reduced, if not frozen. More details on the latter area will be forthcoming as soon as I review the matter in more detail with **Peter Goldstein**, **James Kendrix**, and the Planning and Budgeting Council later next week.

I hope this communication has been helpful. We are working as best and as diligently as we can at the State level to get some financial assistance. However, in the final analysis, our destiny may be in our own hands and we will have to manage our way through this crisis together.

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me as soon as convenient.

Noncredit Summer Calendar Revised

Frances F. Lee, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs has announced that the college has reached agreement with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to revise the noncredit calendar for Summer 2001. "The new ending date for Session I will enable us to collect more FTES for this calendar year which we definitely need due to the drop in enrollment," Lee stated in a memo dated January 31, 2001.

The dates for Summer 2001 Noncredit Session are:

Session I — May 29–June 30

Session II — July 1–July 28

"As part of this agreement, we are developing a side agreement with AFT to deal with faculty issues that may arise as a result of this change," added Lee.