

Dina Neumann

From: nkuall-bounces@listserv.nku.edu on behalf of James Votruba [VOTRUBA@nku.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 1:59 PM
To: nkuall@listserv.nku.edu; nkustudentsall@listserv.nku.edu
Cc: Nancy Barone; Terry L. Mann; Peggy Dejacco; Denice McClelland; Chuck Brown; Forward for: BUTLERMA; Anna Dale Pyles; Steven Weiss; Gabriel Cronon
Subject: [nkuall] (no subject)

I am writing to update you on developments in Frankfort. Earlier today, the Senate passed by a super majority the revenue package approved earlier this week by the House. The result is that, rather than the 6.7% anticipated budget reduction, the reduction to postsecondary education will likely be in the 2% range. This is good news for the university, our students, and the region. It will avoid draconian reductions in this fiscal year although we will still have difficult choices to make. I want to thank you for your efforts on behalf of this revenue package. Your calls and letters made a difference. I also want to thank our legislators who stood up on behalf of education, even in these difficult times.

I want to be clear that, while the reductions in this fiscal year have been reduced, we continue to confront very challenging and uncertain times. As I write this email, the national and global recession continues unabated. I find very few economists who believe that the economic downturn will reverse itself in the short term. Quite the contrary, most believe that we are not likely to see things began to improve before the fourth quarter of this year and it could be longer.

Research suggests that state revenues tend to lag economic recovery by about a year. So, in a best case scenario, we are probably looking at another two years of budget uncertainty for public universities. On top of this, NKU will need to cover a variety of fixed cost and operating increases that we cannot avoid.

We should all be relieved that the Commonwealth has acted. However, we also need to understand that dark clouds remain on the horizon. Our strategy will be to maintain a conservative budget strategy, minimize financial risk, increase our budget reserves, protect our core mission, be more efficient in our work, and do everything within our power to keep tuition affordable and financial aid intact.

We are a strong institution and, as I've said in previous emails, we are fully capable of meeting these challenges. I will continue to update you when there are new developments to share. Have a great weekend!

James C. Votruba
President
Northern Kentucky University
Nunn Drive
800 Lucas Administration Center
Highland Heights, KY 41099
Phone: 859-572-5123
Fax: 859-572-6696

Please note that all e-mails directed to President James Votruba are subject to open records laws and may become public information.