DATE: March 9, 2010

TO: Members of the Legislature

FROM: Karen Y. Zamarripa, Assistant Vice Chancellor
Robert Turnage, Assistant Vice Chancellor

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT – 2010-11 ADMISSIONS

This is another in our series of memorandums to keep you informed about what is going on at the California State University as we continue to grapple with these difficult budget times.

The current year’s budget included a $625 million cut to the University. To bridge this gap, with the least disruption to the classroom as possible, the system used four primary tactics: employee furloughs, spending reductions at campuses and the Chancellor’s Office, student fee increases and enrollment management to correlate the number of students with those funded by the state. Unfortunately, the scope of these cuts makes it impossible for us to devise strategies that will have no student impact and soon we expect to hear from many disappointed families and students that did not receive admission to the CSU campus of their choice due to budget constraints.

Below provides you an update on the status of admissions at the CSU for the 2010-11 academic year and our options if the Governor’s budget proposal for the system is adopted in a timely manner.

Admissions: To bridge the unprecedented budget gap, we were forced to raise fees. However, student demand to attend CSU campuses continues to rise. Our ability to admit students is directly correlated to the amount of state funding we receive. For the first time in our history, CSU closed transfer applications for the spring term. As of mid February, we’ve received 417,571 first-time freshmen applications for this fall (7.4% above fall 09) and 204,741 transfer applications (36.4% above fall 09). We also continue to seeing a growing number of the students
from underserved communities applying to CSU, and we are proud to say that over half of our student body reflects the diversity of this great state.

The Chancellor has instructed all campuses to begin wait lists for eligible applicants pending the outcome of the 2010-11 budget. Campuses have begun to notify applicants if they have been admitted, denied or placed on a wait list. Students can appeal their decision to the campus president. However, our admissions criteria are objective and if a student does not meet our requirements, including GPA and test scores, they will not be admitted at this time. In addition to impacted campuses, we also have various impacted programs at all 23 campuses. When programs are impacted, students may have to meet additional admissions criteria. For more information, feel free to contact us directly.
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Impact of the Governor’s Budget: The Governor’s January budget proposal includes a General Fund increase of $377 million to CSU, including a restoration of $305 million in one-time cuts, a trigger for 2.5% enrollment growth funding tied to the receipt of federal funds, and $11 million in technical adjustments. If the Legislature were to approve the Governor’s budget in a timely manner, CSU would be able to admit an additional 21,000 students, in the 2010-11 academic year, likely in the winter and spring. The newly instituted wait lists reflect our hope that the 2010-11 budget will be enacted in a timely manner and include the minimum funding provided in the January proposal so we can open the doors to thousands of additional students. Absent any budgetary increases, enrollment must continue to be cut at each of the CSU campuses to reflect the direct link between state General Fund support and serving students with quality programs and available courses to achieve their degrees in a timely manner.

Again, we hope this update is helpful to you. California continues to face many fiscal challenges and we look forward to continuing to work with you.