FAQs on the infusion of $97 million into the CSU system

Document compiled by the Executive Cabinet and authored by President Wong, September 3, 2015

1. How much are we getting and when?

The State budget included $97 million more for CSU for Fiscal Year 2015/16. Of the additional $97M received by the CSU, San Francisco State University received $3.1 million in a General Fund Allocation and a potential for an additional $1.3 million in tuition fees if we meet our new enrollment targets. We already received the $3.1 million, but the tuition fees will not be fully collected until the Spring Semester.

2. How will the money be distributed and who makes that decision?

The system has outlined a number of initiatives that govern expenditure of dollars. For example the Student Success Initiative, for which SF State received $1 million has 6 categories. We are working with the Chancellor’s Office to develop our plan and metrics for all six categories. The Chancellor has also asked for a 3 yr history of metrics chosen (if data available) to accompany our plan. Lastly, after a full range of consultations on campus and with the CO, the ultimate allocations are determined by the President.

3. Will there be any restrictions on how we spend the money?

The additional funding comes with restrictions. SFSU is required to expend $1 million on Student Success and Completion initiatives such as Tenure-track faculty hiring, enhanced advising, augmentation of bottleneck solutions, student preparation, high impact practices, and data driven decision making initiatives. Campuses are expected to match the $1 million with $1 million for a total of $2 million. Moreover, the campus must expend monies to accommodate our new enrollment target which increased by 310 FTE in July. Moreover, please note the Campus still has a $3.6 million structural deficit.
4. Does this mean we can stop talking about the structural shortfall?

No. The structural deficit is a local, historical issue solved locally. The new appropriation targets 2015-2016 CSU initiatives, SF State obligations (eg enrollment targets, strategic plan), California obligations (water reductions and building issues).

5. Is the money tied to enrollments? (What happens if we under-enroll again?)

Yes. We will not know our overall financial situation for 2015-2016 until census occurs near the beginning of October when final enrollment numbers are sent to the CO (We are in essence internally cutting budgets. That is, we impose a budget cut on ourselves).

6. Will any of the money be used to address salary equity issues?

We are trying to seek clarification from the Chancellor. Early messages indicate that “local equity” programs are being reviewed and are subject to collective bargaining.

7. What does the revised budget mean in terms of number of faculty and lecturer hires, and the number of sections offered as compared to earlier semesters?

Over the summer, we authorized 55 T/TT searches during 2015-16. We are also completing searches for 2 college deans (HSS and LCA), the Dean of CEL, and the AVP for Research. Lecturers are hired in accordance with enrollment and section demand. The number of sections relates to enrollment demand; we add sections to attempt to eliminate bottlenecks and facilitate student success and graduation.

Please do not forget that we are also trying to rebalance staff size, assignments and salaries as we add faculty and classes.