

December 8, 2008

TO: The UMBC Community

FROM: Freeman Hrabowski, President
Elliot Hirshman, Provost

RE: Budget Update

In the past week, there have been reports in the media about the strong possibility of additional State budget reductions and furloughs. As you probably have seen, the Governor's staff has been engaged in discussions with State employee unions regarding the possibility of furloughs as a way to address a portion of the continuing decline in State revenues. References have been made in the press about furloughs applying to the University System of Maryland. Although we have received no official word yet that we will be required to implement furloughs, we will continue to work with the Chancellor and Board of Regents to discuss the implications of additional budget reductions (new revenue estimates are due next week and are expected to show an additional shortfall) and the possibility of covering some portion of the budget reductions through furloughs. While certain figures have been suggested, no decisions have been made. Any more specific information you may hear from other sources is simply speculation.

The UMBC campus leadership is working very closely with System to protect the interests of our campus and our people. We also are communicating regularly with campus leaders through our shared governance process, and we will work through the System's collective bargaining coalition to engage the appropriate union officials.

In light of the media reports, all of us, of course, are concerned about the impact of the budget situation on the campus and families. Throughout this period, we will continue to emphasize that protecting the academic core and supporting students, faculty, and staff are our most important priorities.

As we receive more information about the budget and specific actions that may be required of the campus, we will be certain to share it with you as quickly as possible.