December 12, 2008

TO : The UMBC Community

FR: Freeman Hrabowski
     Elliot Hirshman

RE: University Budget Update

We want you to know about the most recent development regarding further FY 09 budget reductions. The Governor has asked the USM to reduce its current-year budget by an additional $15.9 million. Today, the USM Board of Regents approved a resolution authorizing the Chancellor to work with campus presidents to develop campus furlough plans. The resolution noted that this response to the latest budget reduction is preferable to other alternatives. The resolution, described by Chancellor Kirwan in a memo (http://www.usmd.edu/usm/chancellor/budget/chanletter.html) to all USM community members, provides a broad framework for implementing furloughs, while giving campuses some flexibility to determine the details of their particular furlough plans.

UMBC's share of the additional budget reduction is $1.4 million. This follows the $1.3-million operating budget and $1.7-million fund balance reductions we were asked to make in October.

Protecting the academic core of the University and supporting students, faculty, and staff remain our primary objectives. We are carefully considering the implications of furloughs and seeking to reduce the impact as much as possible. We will be talking with the leaders of the campus senates about approaches to developing the furlough plan. We are also coordinating with the USM as it has similar discussions with collective bargaining representatives. We are encouraged by discussions at the State level about a progressive approach to furlough days in which those who earn at higher levels would have to take a greater number of furlough days. Both of us will take the maximum number of days established in whatever plan the campus develops.

We know that everyone would like to have more specific information about the furlough plan, and we will be in touch as soon as the appropriate shared governance and union discussions conclude. Thank you for your patience and understanding.