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Report on Conference Call and Next Steps
Wednesday, December 03, 2008

Colleagues,

Below you will find a report of the conference call at 4 pm yesterday between the Chancellor, Presidents and other invited participants. The specific names and institutions have been left out.

Delphia

Report of Conference Call Meeting Yesterday at 4 pm [author to remain anonymous]

Today's meeting lasted approximately thirty minutes, and the purpose of the meeting was to have the presidents discuss whether or not to keep the option of furloughs on the table as institutions prepare for the state budget cuts and whether or not this item should be included on the Thursday TBR meeting agenda. Presidents were encouraged to communicate their approval or disapproval of keeping this option open as a solution for cuts on a college by college basis.

All attending presidents, except one, approved of keeping furloughs open as an option for individual campuses. President _____ was the first to state support for this option. However, s/he stated emphatically that s/he "personally and professionally" opposed it for his/her campus, but s/he didn't think s/he could close this option for other institutions. Several of the presidents have obviously been hearing from their faculty. Several stated that they had heard opposition to the Chancellor's general proposal for a "new business model," especially the move to demand more online classes. One president also stated that s/he had received expressed concerns from his/her school's faculty senate regarding the furloughs issue not coming through any sub-councils or faculty senates. In the event that some campuses decide to pursue furloughs, provisions will be in place to ensure that state retirement calculations are not disrupted during times when an employee may be furloughed. Basically, based on the conversation from the presidents, it looks like a vote on keeping the furloughs available as an option will be on Thursday's agenda. All presidents have until noon tomorrow to voice any additional comments before it is placed on the TBR agenda.