

February 5, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

Yesterday, Chicago State University's Board of Trustees announced that CSU was in financial exigency. In other words, Chicago State declared its lack of minimally adequate financial resources to continue to carry out its core mission. Having no state operating appropriation since July 1 is causing real, perhaps irreversible, damage in Illinois public higher education.

As I have reported to you previously, years of careful fiscal management and increasing enrollments at Governors State University are allowing our university to stay open and continue serving our students for the rest of this academic year. In anticipation of a reasonable resolution of the budget stalemate over the next few months, we are also recruiting for a summer session and, indeed, for the 2016-17 academic year. To date, new applications are up. It's hard to predict, however, what the state's inability to pass a budget will ultimately mean to the public universities.

I want to thank you for your concern for our students and your consistent support of our university during these challenging times. It is imperative that the State of Illinois continue supporting Governors State University—and all its state institutions—in the essential task of educating our students. We are doing everything in our power to get that message across.

At a campus-wide town hall scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2016, following the Governor's budget message on Wednesday, I and members of my cabinet will be responding to any questions you may have. Details about the town hall will be announced shortly.

Sincerely,
Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.
President