

Faculty Representative Assembly

Budget Advisory Committee

UBAC Meeting – 11/8/2012

Good news! The governor's budget recommends \$30 million new dollars to higher education. That's \$9 million to the CU system (we get more because we had to give up more in previous years). UCCS will get approximately \$800,000 of that. The model of money distribution that was chosen favored CU, CSU and Mines because they sacrificed more. The model was signed by the CEO's of all the institutions of higher education in the state.

For the first time in a long time, Higher education received more money than corrections (corrections populations have flattened).

For the first time in recent memory, the governor is recommending a 3.5% increase to classified staff. He has also recommended a 5% addition to the reserve fund. So, the state is apparently improving. Vice Chancellor Burnett believes this will be funded.

There will also be an increase to student financial aid.

Unfortunately, there are no state funds for capital construction.

PELL grants will **not** be effected by the national fiscal "cliff" this year (2013) but could be in ensuing years.

Freshman retention rates were only 66% this year. A long discussion followed on freshman seminars and other models (e.g., "intrusive" actions by Student Success [I prefer "proactive" but...]) to increase retention. Since increasing the number of freshman seminars (i.e., making them mandatory for all freshmen) will cost more, UBAC has to look at it.