

Subject: Update from the Interim President
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From: President of CSU Maritime Academy
To: President of CSU Maritime Academy
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CAL MARITIME

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Update from the Interim President September 8, 2023

Dear Members of the Cal Maritime Community,

As we kick-off the 2023-2024 academic year, I would like to update you on some activities you may find of interest. I am committed to ensuring campus is informed of my work to address our priority areas of budget, culture, and enrollment and will provide you periodic updates.

- **Orientation Week** was a significant success and my thanks to those who helped pull it off. We are off to a fantastic start this year and I thank you for your contribution to student success.
- We are working to finalize guidance on a **Working Group** to assess and make recommendations on the way ahead for our campus. We will soon be asking for volunteers to help support the sub-working groups as part of the overall Working Group effort.
- **Continuous Improvement** will be a cornerstone as we work on the way forward for campus. Revising outdated university policies and establishing clear business processes will assist in building efficiencies to best serve our cadets, graduate students, and campus community.
- We have received **one-time funding** of \$155K from CSU to assist with our enrollment, recruiting, and marketing efforts. The funds will help advance our marketing and outreach, and prospective student searches. While our campus website is not ideal, moving to a new website platform is a costly endeavor which we cannot afford right now. Therefore, we will also be using a portion of the funds to improve content and enhance visual aspects to provide an engaging and informational website for the campus as well as prospective students.

- Next week, I will be attending the **CSU Board of Trustees meeting**. Topics on the agenda include a tuition increase proposal as well as next year's budget. The CSU has not seen a tuition increase in 11 years and the current proposal is intended to remedy perennial underfunding and provide some budget stability. While never pleasant, a tuition increase would help close the widening gap between state funding and our ever-increasing operating expenses. The absence of periodic tuition increases has prevented CSU from having funds sufficient to keep up with rising costs.
- CSU is continuing to assess system-wide **budget realities** and craft projections given declining enrollments, increased labor and insurance costs, and the need for a tuition increase. Until we have a clearer understanding of our own budget situation, I have temporarily slowed hiring and am taking risk by not filling some vacant positions. This will provide a measure of cost savings and allow us time to analyze and better assess our staffing requirements. My objective is to make sure we are adequately staffed in priority areas and continually focused on student success.
- In recent meetings with the leaders of the state maritime academies and the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD), I have raised the need to undertake a **national approach to recruiting** prospective students for the maritime academies. While the maritime industry and our national security interests require us to provide a pool of trained and ready mariners, our individual campus marketing budgets pale in comparison to those of other well-funded universities and the military – who are also recruiting from the same small pool of candidates.
- The following week, I will be meeting with Congressman Garamendi to discuss production of our **National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMV)**, our future pier construction, the temporary relocation of TS *GOLDEN BEAR* during the pier work, and the need for Federal assistance to boost the recruiting and enrollment capabilities of Cal Maritime and the other state maritime academies.
- During the third week of October, I will travel to Washington, DC for meetings with the other leaders of the state maritime academies and **Members of Congress**. We will discuss NSMV production, our pier construction requirements, maritime industry needs, and our maritime academy enrollment challenges.

In closing, please know I look forward to seeing many of you at tomorrow's men's and women's soccer home openers. Please join me! Go Keelhaulers!

Women's Soccer 11:00 AM, Bodnar Field
Men's Soccer 1:30 PM, Bodnar Field