



CAL MARITIME
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President
April 27, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Congress recently passed and the president later signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, intended to address financial disruptions across the nation due to the COVID-19 virus. As part of that legislation, Congress established the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) which provides direct funding to institutions to offset costs associated with COVID response. Within each institution's allocation, 50% must be allocated directly to students; some as stimulus and more as aid based upon need. The other 50% is for institutional costs to continue the support of campus operations now and into the future.

I am writing to inform you that our cadets were notified on Friday (4/24) that funding will be made available to them as early as this week – as we await the transfer of funds from the federal government to the campus. The total cadet funding is slightly over \$488,000 and will be delivered either through direct deposit or printed check, depending upon the cadet's choice. Allocations were made based upon financial aid need information, and I thank Priscilla Muha for her work with Andrew Som in streamlining the process for our cadets.

The institutional funds available total slightly over \$488,000. We will begin a dialogue with faculty and staff to determine how to best utilize these funds to the benefit of the institution in the next several weeks. We won't be moving forward on investments until we establish a collaborative process that yields campus-wide solutions. Some preliminary ideas include how we might invest in supporting faculty training for virtual formats and software modules for our LMS that assist in virtual formats (should we encounter another COVID round, earthquake, or wildfire). Other ideas include implementing an online document workflow system in order to reduce our dependency on paper-based correspondence and speed up approvals for travel, procurement, supplies and services. I am very interested in your ideas on potential investments of these funds, especially those that might be useful in future disruptions. Once we get agreement on the collaborative process, we'll ask those participating to begin the work of identifying important campus investments using the HEERF funding.

All the best,
TC



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Thomas A. Cropper
President