



# CAL MARITIME

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CAL MARITIME FACES 17% STATE FUNDING CUT FOR 2009-10 President's Focus – Preserving Educational Quality and Jobs**

(Vallejo, CA – July 21, 2009)...The faculty and staff at The California Maritime Academy got the specifics of bad news that has been on the horizon for months now: Barring any major changes in the state budget now being finalized by the Governor and the Legislature, the University's \$18.5 million in state funding support will be cut by 17% -- a loss of over \$3.2 million. With the State budget deficit passing \$26 billion, the California State University (CSU) system, of which Cal Maritime is a part, was told by the Legislature and the Governor to cut its overall budget by \$584 million. CSU Chancellor Charles Reed and his staff then apportioned the cuts to each of the system's 23 campuses.

The CSU trustees took steps to help address the shortfall today at a special meeting in Long Beach, CA, including two-day-per month unpaid furloughs for most campus workers, and a 20% hike in student tuition fees (on top of a 10% hike in May in anticipation of the looming shortfall.) Cal Maritime President William B. Eisenhardt, in Long Beach for today's meeting, said the cuts represent one of the biggest challenges ever to face the school, the smallest in the CSU system. "Our share of the CSU cut is over \$3.2 million. Income from today's fee increase will reduce the amount we have to cover to \$2.8 million and payroll savings from furloughs will trim the figure to \$1.5 million. We're taking a broad range of actions to close that remaining gap including freezes on hiring and raises, strict controls on travel and other spending, cuts to operating budgets, deferral of maintenance, dipping into already strained budget reserves and a continued search for operational and cost efficiencies.

"I want to stress to the members of the Cal Maritime family – faculty and staff, students and their families, alumni, friends and supporters – that our primary focus in the months ahead will be preserving the quality of our educational programs and the jobs which are so vital to that effort."

“Eighty percent of our operating costs are labor. That means that virtually all of our roughly 70 full-time faculty and 140 staff members will be seeing their paychecks reduced by nearly 10%. I address them as ‘family’ because our small campus truly makes us a family – one I know will work together in finding new ways to achieve our goals in the face of adversity.

“Our students and their families now face still higher costs for their education and are wondering how they will meet them. We’re reaching out to everyone with financial questions and asking them to start first with the financial aid link on the homepage of our website ([www.csum.edu](http://www.csum.edu)) for latest updates. This helps us post answers to frequently asked questions as soon as we have the information, and frees our financial aid staff to focus on working with those in immediate need.”

President Eisenhardt has invited faculty and staff to a campus budget forum Friday morning at 10 AM in the school’s Peachman Auditorium. “I’ve learned that you can learn a lot by listening,” he said in a message to employees “and I encourage anyone with ideas on ways we can help control costs and maintain jobs and educational quality to come and contribute to what will be a continuing dialogue in the year ahead.”

Because the fiscal year is already nearly a month old, employees will be required to take twenty-four days – nearly five work weeks - of unpaid time off over the next 11 months. “I know that one of the largest areas of immediate concern for our employees is how this will be implemented,” Eisenhardt said. “We’ll use our website and other communications to receive and answer such questions as we get detailed information and craft our own solutions. We are encouraged that the CSU will give individual campuses as much flexibility as possible in achieving furlough mandates. Cal Maritime’s small size, heavy student course loads and residential campus structure will be taken into account as we work to achieve cost savings without impairing campus operations and the quality of our instructional programs.”

Eisenhardt said CSU campuses have already been told they will need to trim enrollment next year (2010-11) because the state is not providing funds for additional students and the system cannot absorb those costs. Given its small size, Cal Maritime has been instructed to maintain its current enrollment at about 850 students.

The California Maritime Academy, now celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, is one of seven maritime universities in the United States and the only one on the west coast. It offers four-year undergraduate degree programs in marine transportation, marine engineering, mechanical and facilities engineering, global studies and maritime affairs, and international business and logistics.