

Subject: Update from Interim President Dumont
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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 Interim President Dumont February 5, 2024

Dear Members of the Cal Maritime Community,

We are almost a month in, and this semester seems to be flying by with just three months until commencement on May 4th and until Training Ship *Golden Bear* departs for her summer cruise on May 6th. My thanks to CAPT. Bannister and the summer cruise planning committee for their hard work.

The year has kicked off with the formation of the **Rapid Action Working Groups**. Thank you for your input and your participation in this effort. The group leads have been tasked with receiving input and crafting recommendations that will (1) Develop an organizational framework to support continuous improvement efforts as we go forward; and (2) Identify and prioritize critical improvement areas that could be restructured, consolidated, or eliminated to quickly realize cost savings. Recommendations should also consider the need to reduce administrative burden so more resources can be utilized to support our strategic goals. I have asked each working group lead to compile the recommendations and present the top recommendations during an open campus meeting anticipated to be held on Friday, February 23rd. If you were unable to attend a session or have additional recommendations, please contact the leads directly or send an email to UniversityAffairs@csum.edu.

On a related note, the governor's office recently announced a deferral of the state's 2024-25 CSU system compact funding commitment of approximately \$240 million by one year—until fiscal year 2025-26. The governor indicated that the deferred 2024-25 compact funding will be added to the base budget in 2025-26. A representative from the Governor's Office was present at last week's CSU Board of Trustee meeting to discuss the deferral and reiterated the Administration's continued commitment to the CSU system compact despite the state's revenue shortfalls.

Campus leadership continues to address our **budget** challenges as we prepare for the 2024-25 fiscal year. As presented to the Budget Advisory Committee last week, a shortfall of approximately \$1.2M remains to present a balanced budget for the fiscal year. Each leader has been asked to further review their divisional budgets as we work to close this budget gap. I also look forward to the recommendations from the Rapid Action Working Groups to inform the difficult decisions we must make in the weeks and months ahead. Please know I continue to work closely with the CSU Chancellor's Office regarding Cal Maritime's fiscal health. Yet, I would be remiss if I did not remind each of us that the financial burdens and enrollment challenges we

face are significant and it will take all of us working collaboratively together to address these. In short, we must adapt as required and evolve to meet the challenges of today and prepare our students for tomorrow. As we address our budgetary constraints and limited financial resources, we will continue to take an enterprise approach to every major decision we make.

While resources remain tight, I continue to dedicate significant time and energy to **advocacy work** alongside my CSU and state maritime academy colleagues. My objective is to ensure there is awareness at both the state and federal levels as to the important role Cal maritime plays in our state, national, and global economy.

You may have already seen on the news, Congress recently passed the **continuing spending resolution (CR)**, averting a government shutdown. That means current federal spending for state maritime academy programs is extended until March 1 under the continuing resolution for the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill. Although the amount for each bill has not been publicly released, these allocations allow negotiations on the Hill to begin in earnest, increasing the possibility that the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill will be completed by March 1, 2024.

Later this week I will be traveling to the Philadelphia Shipyard for the ceremonial **Steel Cutting for NSMV V**. This will take place on Feb. 9th and marks the first major milestone in building our new ship. I will be joined by CAPT. Bannister and Chief Engineer Kleitman as they will be at SUNY Maritime for a MARAD conference and an operational tour of Training Ship *Empire State*. As you know, our new training ship is slated for delivery in spring 2026.

Later this month, Ryan Okada, ASCMA President, and I will be in Sacramento for the **CSU Advocacy Day**. This event provides an opportunity for us to highlight for state legislators the crucial role our institution and other CSU campuses play in shaping California's future and economy. We look forward to continuing to showcase the impact our campus has on the state and national economy.

Lastly, as I have discussed since my arrival, we will continue to make necessary organizational changes with an enterprise approach. To that end, the offices of Enrollment, Admissions, and Financial Aid have been moved under the Division of Students Affairs. This is to better link and reinforce their efforts with our greater, more expansive student resources efforts.

As we continue to meet our enrollment and budgetary issues, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank each of you for your dedication and hard work in making this university the special place that it is. While the road ahead will not be easy, and there will be tough decisions that have to be made, our effort remains focused on supporting our amazing cadets and graduate students and ensuring their success. Thank you.