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April 07, 2017: Weekly Message from Interim President Curtis McCray

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April 07, 2017: Weekly message from Interim President Curtis McCray

Dear Campus Community,

"With great authority comes great responsibility."--Stan Lee, with a nod to Voltaire

Earlier this week, I met in an open forum with hundreds of Wright State University staff members. I didn't know what or how many people to expect. But staff showed up in legion, and I was happy to see that because as long as I am here, I promise you I will be transparent about what I know and what is coming. Meeting you, even under these circumstances, is a good thing for the university. I can see how much you care.

During the forum, I shared how I came to be interim president of your university and how it looks to me that the university came to be in the position it is in financially. I listened to good, hard-working people eager to know more about what is coming next, but also scared to learn what is coming next. I shared the broad areas in which we are hunting for savings that will help us reach our goal--administrative costs, stipends, operational redundancies, among them--but I had nothing I could share firmly about specific cuts or changes. I know the content of what I shared was not satisfying or pacifying of those fears, but I hope it is the beginning of real change. Change we must do together.

In my years as a university president, I have never approved an unbalanced budget. That is not going to change during my time with you at Wright State. There will be losses. There will be cuts. There will be changes. Losses and cuts and changes that probably should have been happening, I'm sorry to say, over the last few years anyway; but now they must happen in a hurry for Wright State to be in the best financially sustainable position for the future.

I am committed to doing my best to answer your questions--by email, at forums, and in person. Send them my way and I will answer. I plan to hold faculty and student forums too. We are working to schedule them soon. Those forums that can be recorded or streamed live will be shared as broadly as possible through university channels. You can watch the first staff forum at <http://bit.ly/2o6FiIn>.

We will hold another staff forum on Thursday, April 13, at noon in 120 Medical Sciences.

Today, your Board of Trustees is engaging in its daylong process of committee meetings. You can see the schedule at <http://www.wright.edu/events/board-trustees-committees-meeting>. I'll be there to brief the board about what I've learned. I encourage you, if able, to stop by the Student Union's Apollo Room and observe that process for yourself. I know many of you are planning to, and your presence and participation is welcome.

Curtis L. McCray

Interim President

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