

5-26-2017

May 26, 2017: Weekly Message from Interim President Curtis McCray

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Repository Citation

McCray, C. L. (2017). May 26, 2017: Weekly Message from Interim President Curtis McCray. *From the Desk of the President*.
https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/president_desk/18

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May 26, 2017: Weekly message from Interim President Curtis McCray

Dear Campus Community,

I know last Friday was a difficult day for many on our campus. Our financial picture is grim. I know the prospect of our looming job cuts is stressful. Operational changes, spending decisions, and enrollment are among your concerns. The changes will be challenging, but we are creating the Wright State of the future with a sustainable funding model that will allow us to focus on the growth and mission of the university.

I also know students are concerned about their academic programs and whether the budget will interfere with plans to graduate on schedule. Although the university will stop offering three languages, we currently have no plans to eliminate majors or degree programs.

Our work is not done yet. We are finalizing the fiscal year 2018 budget in time for the Board of Trustees' annual budget workshop on June 8. We are also implementing controls so that this situation never happens again. Just as important, your board has changed; they are engaged in financial oversight in a way they were not just three months ago.

You still have time to provide feedback on our budget proposal. The board will accept comments sent from university community members using your Wright State email addresses until June 5. Please email your comments to commentonbudget@wright.edu

I will also remind you that we continue to accept comments about a proposal to change the classified reduction in force policy for non-bargaining unit classified employees. You can learn more about this proposed policy change and submit comments on it until June 4 at <http://wright.edu/classifiedlayoffpolicy>

I've met with many of you over the last two months and encourage you to share your input and ideas with me as well.

I also encourage you to take advantage of the numerous services our Human Resources department offers, including workshops on resilience, change management, and team building, as well as counseling services and activities to help deal with stress. Planning is also under way to provide support and resources to employees whose jobs are eliminated, including a career expo on June 27.

I will not write a letter next week but plan to communicate again around June 8 with more details about the FY18 budget.

I know it can be difficult to stay positive in such trying times. But I do believe the university is coming out of this challenge in a better position, and remains a prominent contributor to the Dayton region.

I hope the long Memorial Day weekend will provide you with a relaxing break; but also please take a moment to think of family and friends you have lost and honor our veterans.

Curtis L. McCray
Interim President

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Posted Friday, May 26, 2017

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