October 27, 2010

To the Campus Community:

Late last week we learned that the State University of New York has received a mid-year budget cut of $23.25 million. SUNY Plattsburgh's assigned share of that cut is $521,400.

Before this most recent cut, we were already grappling with a $3.48 million permanent deficit. The measures we as a campus have taken in the past two years have helped to keep the problem from becoming worse than it is. But the fact remains that we must take steps between today and June 30, 2011 to eliminate a $4 million deficit.

In moving forward to meet this unpleasant challenge, I shall try to protect as much as possible the basic academic mission of the college. When all is said and done, our fundamental purpose here is to provide a healthy and safe environment for students, working under the conscientious and coordinated instruction of qualified faculty members, to complete an academic curriculum leading to degrees. As valuable as all the rest of what we do may be, and as well as we may do it, and as much as it may enhance or support our core mission, it should not be confused with the core mission itself.

From teaching an extra course to picking up the slack in an office when a position has been closed or gone unfilled, all of you have pitched in and helped. Thank you. I wish for all our sakes that the budget news were better. Please keep sending me your suggestions for saving (or generating) money.

John Ettinger
President