Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is an outstanding public research university – with quality academic programs, excellent research and scholarship and meaningful community engagement. I’ve always been amazed by what we accomplish with a relatively thin budget – which I am sad to say has become thinner and is in need of significant adjustment.

Traditionally, UMSL has somewhat assigned across-the-board budget cuts when reductions were necessary. This process allowed us to remain broad, but diminished our depth of quality. We no longer can nor should we operate this way. We need to focus on the activities that best support our students and their future in our community.

Various groups have been meeting over the past several weeks to tackle this issue – discussing priorities and process, philosophy and outcomes. Unit managers have been asked to submit scenarios for different levels of cuts. Now, I am asking you to weigh in.

We have created the UMSL Sustainable Budget Realignment website to provide students, faculty, staff and supporters a clear, concise understanding of the situation and task ahead, with an avenue to submit suggestions and comments. We understand that this is not an easy issue to consider and an even harder one to articulate. But no one knows the campus better than you. So, please let us know your thoughts.

Your focus can be on an individual program or unit. It can be broad and philosophical – such as suggesting UMSL consider revising its mission. We are open to your ideas.

UMSL is an important regional asset – educating and graduating thousands of individuals each year who contribute greatly to the economic and social well-being of St. Louis. Above all – that will remain our focus and legacy.

Thank you in advance for your input and support.

Sincerely,

Tom George
Chancellor