COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

SABRRC question: Budget projections for the next biennium indicate that additional cuts will probably be necessary, possibly in excess of 10%. To what extent will the proposed changes address further decreases in state-appropriated funding?

COB response:

In January 2006, in response to growing budget pressures, the faculty approved a strategic framework that transformed the College of Business into a professional school and established a culture focused on professionalism, research excellence and multiple discipline-based major programs. The framework and vision leading to the COB’s transformation will continue to guide decision-making and budget planning in the near future.

1. The professional school model enables the College to manage student access to courses in proportion to available resources. The COB is currently at capacity for student enrollment with average class sizes of 45-50 students. We lack sufficient advising resources to bring our current advisor-student ratio of 465:1 down to the target advisor-student ratio of 300:1. We also rely on development funding to deliver 18 sections per year.

2. If faced with additional cuts, the College will continue to follow priorities originally established for the professional school model:
   1. Business majors
   2. Business and entrepreneurship minors
   3. Service courses

3. We remain focused on providing programs of excellence for business students. Accordingly, we have implemented several strategic initiatives to support the professional school model and our priorities.
   a. We offer on-line courses for all the courses required for the business and entrepreneurship minor.
   b. We implemented differential tuition for the MBA program to ensure we charge market rates as we grow our program and our undergraduate program.
   c. We have proposed for next year a business access fee for all non-business students for the undergraduate courses.
   d. The College expects to receive a large percentage of the INTO students scheduled to enroll at OSU and will incorporate them into the professional school and MBA programs.

4. If faced with a 10% cut in funding, it may require the College to limit access to non-business majors and shifting service courses and students in the business and entrepreneurship minor to on-line courses.
a. The College will hold firm to the professional school cohort planning numbers of 500 juniors and 500 seniors. Given OSU’s relationship with INTO, additional budget reductions will likely mean that domestic students will bear the brunt of limited access to business courses. In fall 2009 the College had 850 incoming freshmen enter pre-business. As of winter term 2010, 580 students are enrolled in the business and entrepreneurship minor.

b. It should also be noted that the College is not able to function on less administrative resources and may need to add resources in this area.

5. I also note that several faculty resignations this year will result in a significant carryover next year that may also be used to handle necessary reductions without interruption of access in the short-run but will cause problems when all open lines are again filled by academics.