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From the President's Desk Letter - November 19, 2013

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Tara Artinyan - {Disarmed} [USM] From the President's Desk

From: "USM President" <president@usm.maine.edu>
To: "swengland@usm.maine.edu" <swengland@usm.maine.edu>
Date: 11/19/2013 5:14 PM
Subject: {Disarmed} [USM] From the President's Desk



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From the President's Desk

November 19, 2013

Dear Friends and Volunteers:

I am writing to update you on University of Southern Maine developments announced to the campus community last Friday, November 15, and in particular, how we plan to address serious budget challenges facing our university. And those challenges -- which are not unlike the challenges facing other campuses here and across the nation -- are significant for fiscal year 2015, beginning on July 1, 2014.

On Friday, we shared details of a projected \$11.9 million structural gap for FY 2015. That's a very tough number, 8.6 percent of our operating budget. But we have in place our Direction Package Advisory Board dedicated to implementing solutions and strategies, which will lay the groundwork for our university's successful future. This 32-member Board includes faculty, staff and student leaders, as well as representatives from the Board of Visitors, Foundation Board and Alumni Association. I expect a plan to be completed by March 2014.

The shortfall is a combination of a decrease of summer and fall 2013 enrollments, as well as our fall 2014 projections. That enrollment picture -- combined with our continued commitment to increasing financial aid -- adds up to projected revenue being \$8.2 million LESS in FY 2015. On the expense side, we project a total of \$3.7 million in increases for compensation adjustments, utilities, debt service, and System-required deferred maintenance.

As I've mentioned in the past, higher education across the country is facing the same issues. "North Carolina budget cuts concern college students as they return..." and "Less money, more problems: budget cuts hit CSU (California State University) and UC (University of California) campuses" are among the headlines in recent months.

We will be looking at everything within USM's purview. There are



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USM students and alumni are learning, engaging, and giving back to Maine communities. As part of the [USM Network](#), let's continue to help create a

no protected interests. Based on the Advisory Board's evaluation of all available data and your input, we will develop recommendations on how to address AND solve our short and longer-term fiscal, enrollment and related challenges. I am committed to that outcome because this university is too important an institution for our students, the communities throughout this region and the state as a whole.

stronger, brighter future for
Maine and beyond.

Despite this news, the campus continues to be a hub of intellectual and cultural activities. Doris Kearns Goodwin presented last week on her newest book; former U.S. Congressman, Barney Frank, spoke to a group in October; and Stephen King's horror classic, "CARRIE the musical" had its Maine premiere at the beginning of this month.

My best wishes for the upcoming holiday, and many thanks to all of you who supported the Maine educational bond issues. I will continue these communications as we move through this process.

Sincerely yours,



Theodora J. Kalikow
President, University of Southern Maine

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