

Dear friends of Huskers for Higher Education - I am sending the text of an e:mail sent today by Ron Withem from President Milliken's office. I couldn't have said it better myself... Rest assured we will keep you posted on the Unicameral's progress during this special session and may very well ask for your assistance as we progress through the debate. Thank you!

"We had hoped that these periodic updates of legislative activity could have waited until the first of the year when the Legislature comes back to town, but events of this week have prompted me to resume my practice of sending you information on what is going on in state government and how it affects the University.

You probably have all read press accounts of how the state's economy is affecting the amount of tax revenue available to fund state government programs. The Revenue Forecasting Board met this Tuesday and reduced their prediction of revenue likely to be collected by \$297 million, putting the state's budget out of balance by \$335 million dollars.

To deal with this problem, Governor Heineman has announced that he will call the Legislature into special session next Wednesday, November 4, to attempt to put the budget back into balance. The Governor has made it clear that he will not include raising sales or income tax as a part of his solution to this issue, so we are expecting he will be proposing spending cuts in most areas of state spending.

At this point, he has not given any indication of what specific budget reductions he will propose. He has indicated that he will release his recommendations next Monday or Tuesday. Following that, the Legislature will convene, introduce bills, hold hearings and ultimately pass legislation to address this problem.

Being a recipient of state funding, we are sure the University will be impacted by actions taken in the special session. We do not expect to be spared from budget adjustments, but we do hope to be treated fairly.

As the special session goes on, we will be contacting you with updates and suggestions as to how you can express your opinions regarding legislative actions."

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