

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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BUDGET SQUEEZE

U of I announces furloughs, other universities say they can weather cash crisis for now

University of Illinois Interim President Stan Ikenberry announced [cost-saving measures](#) this week, including furloughs ranging from four to 10 days for more than 11,000 faculty, staff, and administrators. Cost-saving steps at the U of I and other public universities have been necessitated by a cash flow crunch resulting from delinquent payment of state appropriations. Several universities – including [WU](#), [EIU](#), and [SIU](#) – have informed their campus communities that layoffs and furloughs will not be necessary, although other cost-cutting measures, such as hiring freezes and travel restrictions, are being taken.

Legislature returns for crucial spring session

The General Assembly returns to Springfield January 12 to begin a spring session that will be dominated by the state's fiscal crisis. Even so, other issues will surface, and several bills related to higher education already have been introduced:

[HB 4685](#), sponsored by Rep. Jack Franks, would eliminate the General Assembly scholarship program.

[HB 4688](#), sponsored by Rep. Naomi Jakobsson, would add faculty members to the U of I Board of Trustees and create a Trustees Selection Task Force (TRUST Force) to review nominations to the board and make recommendations to the Governor.

[HB 4706](#), sponsored by Rep. David Winters, would repeal the 50% tuition waiver for children of public universities' employees.

[President launches 'Educate to Innovate' program](#)

President Obama has launched an "Educate to Innovate" campaign to improve the participation and performance of America's students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This campaign will include efforts not only from the Federal Government but also from leading companies, foundations, non-profits, and science and engineering societies to work with young people across America to excel in science and math.

[What's the top higher education state policy issue for 2010? \\$\\$\\$](#)

The other top nine issues facing higher education, as forecast by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), are:

2. President Obama's American Graduation Initiative
3. Tuition Policy and Prices
4. Enrollment Capacity
5. State Student Aid Programs
6. Federal Focus on Community Colleges

UPCOMING

January

- 12-14** General Assembly in session
- 13** Governor's State of the State Address
- 22** IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, Governors State University
- 23-24** IBHE Student Advisory Committee, SIU-Carbondale
- 26** IBHE Board Meeting, Chicago State University 1:00 pm

FYI

January is National Mentoring Month.

Go [here](#) to learn what you can do.

7. Expansion of Statewide Data Systems and New Reporting Metrics
8. Veterans Education
9. College Readiness
10. Teacher Effectiveness

What issues are on your list? Send your picks to FridayMemo@ibhe.org.

[ISAC reaching out to pave the path to college](#)

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has listed a schedule of community events targeted to helping families navigate the college admission and financial aid processes. ISAC hosts or participates in a variety of outreach efforts to better inform students and families what to do, how to do it, and when to do it to smooth the road to college, including financial aid nights, financial literacy events, and FAFSA completion workshops. In addition, the agency sponsors College Awareness and Preparation events and a College Goal Sundays. ISAC also has announced that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) for 2010-11 is now available online.

[Report shows tuition waivers grew slightly in 2009](#)

Public universities issued 47,582 tuition and fee waivers in fiscal 2009, valued at \$370 million, according to a report by the Illinois Board of Higher Education to the General Assembly. Those totals reflect increases in the number of waivers (574) and amount (\$24.2 million) compared with FY08. The vast majority of waivers (78%) are given at the graduate level. Similarly, discretionary waivers – such as those given to athletes and teaching assistants – far outnumber statutorily mandated waivers – such as veterans grants and General Assembly scholarships.

[A note of caution on charter schools](#)

With the Obama administration and Education Secretary Arne Duncan supporting an increase in the number of high-performing charter schools as part of their “Race to the Top” education initiative, charter school advocates have applauded the move, seeing competition in local school districts as a key measure to educational reform. Charter school critics, however, remain skeptical of their efficacy. University of Illinois education professor Christopher Lubienski discusses charter schools and their effectiveness with News Bureau Education Editor Phil Ciciora.

[ARRA Grant Opportunity](#)

AHRQ ARRA Recovery Act 2009 Limited Competition: AHRQ Institutional National Research Service Award (NRSA) Postdoctoral Comparative Effectiveness Development Training Award (T32) supports the postdoctoral training of health services and clinical researchers. Closing date for applications is January 20, 2010.

[People in the News](#)

[Bob Martin](#) begins his new role on February 1 as Eastern Illinois University’s vice president for university advancement. He replaces Jill Nilsen, who announced her retirement, effective Dec. 31, after serving as vice president for external relations since 1998. Martin is currently assistant vice president for development at Auburn University in Alabama.

[Brenda Recchia Jeffers](#), PhD, RN has been named the new chancellor for St. John’s College. She previously was interim associate dean and director of master’s/doctoral programs and research at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. Jeffers has a doctorate in nursing from Saint Louis University and her master’s and bachelor’s in nursing from University of Illinois, Chicago. She has an associate’s degree in nursing from Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield.

[Mary Ann Freitag](#) a faculty member at St. Xavier’s School of Nursing suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm seven months ago. She is a FY09 Nurse Educator Fellow, recognized by the IBHE and Illinois Center for Nursing as a Fellow last May. To alleviate the costs associated with long-term care, a benefit, “Lend a Hand for Mary Ann,” will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight Jan. 22 at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 W. 115th St., Merrionette Park. For more information, visit www.lendahandformaryann.com.

Campus News

[Lincoln College will celebrate 145th Anniversary with Charter Day Celebration](#)

Lincoln College will commemorate its 145th anniversary with a Charter Day celebration on Sunday, Feb. 14. The theme for this Charter Day celebration is *Lincoln and Poetics*. Abraham Lincoln was a great lover of poetry, wrote poetry, and displayed a poetic style in some of his greatest speeches. The only college or university named for Abraham Lincoln during his lifetime, Lincoln College was officially chartered by the General Assembly of the State of Illinois on February 6, 1865, when it became one of the pioneer educational institutions in the Midwestern U.S.

[SIU Med School receives \\$1.1 million in federal cancer grants](#)

Five basic science researchers at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield have been awarded grants by the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs for various cancer research projects. The grants total \$1,176,529.

[SXU to receive \\$1.25 million in federal funding to upgrade campus library, develop STEM education center](#)

Saint Xavier University plans to upgrade its Chicago campus library and develop a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education center at its Orland Park campus with the new federal funding.

[Six trustees join DePaul University board](#)

Six business, educational and religious leaders joined DePaul University's Board of Trustees recently—three of them DePaul graduates—bringing the number of executives and influencers working locally and nationally on the university's behalf to 43.

News from Higher Education

[Calif. Governor proposes amending constitution to bolster higher education](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California proposed a constitutional amendment in his State of the State address on Wednesday that would require the state to spend more money on higher education than it does on prisons.

[True costs of student success](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)

"Student success" programs of various types -- learning communities, first-year experience programs, and the like -- have proliferated on college campuses, driven by the reality that it's easier to keep current students than recruit new ones. The programs are popular, but as is true of just about all campus efforts these days, they are open to scrutiny about their effectiveness -- and their cost effectiveness.

[The case of the vanishing full-time professor](#)

(The New York Times)

If you've written a few five-figure tuition checks or taken on 10 years' of debt, you probably think you're paying to be taught by full-time professors. But it's entirely possible that most of your teachers are freelancers.

[Would insurance for college failure keep more students enrolled?](#)

(The Wall Street Journal)

A third to a half of college students drop out, and many of them still have hefty student loans once they're no longer enrolled. Offering insurance to protect students from the financial cost of failure could keep some of them in school, says a new paper released by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

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