

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

October 2, 2009

Dear Friend of CANR,

I hope that you plan on joining us on October 6 for a CANR stakeholder meeting from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Big Ten A Room of the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. This letter provides you with some background material to prepare for the meeting. Included are links to a PowerPoint and a message from MSUE Director Tom Coon which outlines the college's baseline plan for responding to the financial challenges.

The current budget situation is unlike any we have faced in our recent history. The entire university is focused on our state's economic situation and how our stakeholders are faring during these challenging times. Michigan State University and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are proactively addressing the budget situation and potentially dramatic reduction and restructuring of our future state funding.



While our financial challenge is daunting, with the scenarios ranging from a \$14 to \$33 million cut to CANR, MAES and MSUE, our strategy has been to use this situation to redesign all three organizations to best serve Michigan's needs. Our plans include the following:

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- Redefining the faculty working relationship
 - Transition of all tenure stream hires after 1982 from annual to academic year appointments.
- Restructuring and reorganizing academic and administrative departments
 - Our strategic themes will guide the development of curricula, department structure and service centers to support our clarified priorities, which are:
 - The global food, natural resources and bioenergy system
 - Food security, safety and healthfulness
 - Sustainability—environmental, societal and economic
- Encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation
 - A proposal to reallocate General Fund dollars to invest in programs that move the institution forward
- Designing service centers that streamline support services, and
- Reducing and restructuring administrative infrastructure
 - IT, Communications and Marketing, External Relations, Stakeholder Relations and other Ag Hall programs will be restructured.

*MSU is an affirmative-action
Equal-opportunity employer.*

A detailed PowerPoint [with voice over narration] was presented to faculty and administrative leaders last week that outlines a baseline plan that we will discuss at our meeting. To view the PowerPoint please link to <http://av.anr.msu.edu/budgetaugust09/strategic%20budget%20directions.wmv>

We will also be discussing the impact if the higher education bill is signed by the Governor. This bill recommends a 44 percent cut to both the MAES and MSUE line items in the state budget with those funds being replaced with stimulus funding for FY 2010. The challenge with this bill is that we start the budget negotiations for next year with uncertainty regarding whether the funding will be restored for FY 2011. If the bill is signed it also means that MSU will be taking a disproportionate budget cut compared to other state institutions. MSUE Director Tom Coon explains the impact of this bill in the attached message that he distributed within MSUE (please see MSUE attachment).

CANR, including Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and Michigan State University Extension, is committed to remaining relevant and responsive and to providing leadership in realizing MSU's land-grant mission. We are actively engaged with faculty and staff in designing new academic and administrative infrastructures and systems that move MSU and Michigan forward in a new scenario of diminished funding and increasing internal and external demands and needs.

The Provost has requested all plans for shaping our future from Colleges, MSUE and MAES be submitted by October 16, 2009. The urgency of the financial crisis demands that we work under an aggressive timeline. President Simon and Provost Wilcox have outlined a strategic planning strategy that is committed to redesigning the university while holding true to our core values and commitments. This process is aimed at building value and ensuring quality. It seeks to build a new model that will transform the way we work on behalf of our students, stakeholders and the communities we serve both locally and globally. Background information related to the university's process, along with planning initiatives and communications to campus related to that process, may be found on the Web at www.shapingthefuture.msu.edu.

I hope that you will be able to join us on October 6. I look forward to an engaging and thoughtful discussion.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Armstrong
Dean
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

C: University Community