



University of Massachusetts Amherst
Office of Parent Services

March 27, 2009

To Our UMass Amherst Families,

I am writing to report on a potentially very positive development for our students and families.

This past week, I had the privilege to be in Boston to hear Governor Deval Patrick announce his proposed allocation of \$81.6 million of economic stimulus money to the UMass system. I thanked the Governor for his proposal.

Today, I am writing to ask that you contact your state legislators and join me in voicing your support of the Governor's proposed allocation. With this proposed funding, we would plan to rebate, as much as possible, the recent fee increase, and preserve the quality of a UMass Amherst education.

Last Monday, when I testified before the Legislature's Joint Committee on Higher Education, I spoke about your sons and daughters. It is imperative that we ensure access to higher education for all students of our Commonwealth. It is a critical investment in our future.

As the legislators in Boston develop the state budget for fiscal year 2010, UMass Amherst is anticipating a \$46 million shortfall in our funding.

Families are our most compelling advocates, and I am asking you to join me in making the case to legislators that the University of Massachusetts Amherst matters, and that cuts to the campus must be minimized.

Please take some time to advocate for UMass Amherst: it will make a difference for all of our students, and for the future of the Commonwealth. The Advocacy Update website (<http://www.umass.edu/advocates/>) is a resource for contacting your legislators and making the case for more funding.

You may also contact Governor Patrick (http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3utilities&sid=Agov3&U=Agov3_contact_us) and thank him for his proposal.

If you have any questions or need more information regarding UMass Amherst advocacy, please contact, Cheryl Dukes, associate director State Government Relations at 413.545.2560 or sgr@admin.umass.edu.

Thank you for your support and action. I look forward to working with you to build a stronger UMass Amherst.

Chancellor Robert C. Holub

Related Links

Chancellor Holub's Campus Budget Update

<http://www.umass.edu/chancellor/budget.html>

Testimony before the Legislature's Joint Committee on Higher Education

http://www.umass.edu/chancellor/budget_legislature_032309.html