

M E M O R A N D U M

March 24, 2003

TO: SSCC Community

FROM: Jill Wakefield

RE: 2003-2004 Budget Information and Discussion

As you are undoubtedly aware, the economic outlook for the State of Washington is challenging. I would like to update the campus community with the information we currently have on the Governor's proposed budget and what it means for South Seattle Community College.

To accommodate different schedules, two meetings have been scheduled on **Monday, April 7, 2003, in the Little Theater. I hope you are able to join me at noon or 3:30 p.m.** for information on the current situation, the budget process we will be following, and a discussion of strategies that we as a college community will need to devise to get us through this difficult financial time.

In addition to anticipated reductions in our level of state funding, South has a number of unique financial and strategic issues. These include, but are not limited to:

- Costs associated with new program development to help strengthen our tuition paying FTE base and meet student demand.
- A reduction in international students due to global issues.
- Resale accounts that have accumulated deficits.
- Programs with waived tuition (ESL, apprenticeship)

Although I will not have specific information on the extent of budget reductions until the legislative session has come to a close, I do anticipate fairly significant reductions.

The difficult budget decisions that will need to be made will be guided by our mission and institutional goals for 2003-2005. These are:

1. Ensure the financial health of the college.
2. Align and prioritize resources to meet student demand, program requirements, and enrollment management goals.

3. Invest in strategies to support student success, retention, completion, and transfer.
4. Encourage and support professional development.