



March 4

Where's Bob?

Do you know where university photographer Bob Elbert came upon this bold elevator door?

March 4

First budget drafts due April 1

Budget units received preliminary reduction targets for next year's budget. This year's \$24.5 million mid-year reversion will become permanent in FY11.

March 4

A river ran through it

Sculptures crafted from trash fished out of Iowa rivers are on display at Parks Library. Ogden artist David Williamson will discuss an annual river cleanup and the art work it spawned in a March 25 talk at the library.

March 4

Strategic plan moves forward

Two April open forums have been scheduled to discuss the university's 2010-15 strategic plan being drafted this month by the steering committee.

March 4

Speak up

ComETS seeks the opinions of faculty, staff and students about the university's educational technology services. Look for a survey in your e-mail the week of March 22.

March 4

BYOC to save green

A new ISU Dining initiative offers beverage discounts if you bring your own cup to fill.



River trash sculpture

Announcements

- New P&S compensation structure topic of March 4 open forum
- Celebrate International Women's Day March 7
- TIAA-CREF seminar examines mid-career financial challenges
- Reminder: Apply by March 31 to participate in RIO2 program
- Lecture looks at impact of financial derivatives on stock market
- Learn about ISU's MBA program March 17; RSVP required
- ISU's scholarly web presence has jumped to 56th internationally
- Meat lab is open again
- Register by March 9 to volunteer for Veishea activities
- You be the judge at the state science/technology fair, March 26-27

Arts & events

Le Grande Cirque

More than a circus

The acrobats and performers of Le Grande Cirque bring a thrilling performance to Stephens March 11.

Honors & awards

- Iowa State University

Around campus**Good news for dogs**

ISU researchers have developed two new methods to detect glaucoma in dogs at an early age, long before the dogs show any signs of the disease.

Miller named interim Extension VP

Longtime ISU faculty member and administrator Gerald "Jerry" Miller has been appointed interim vice president for extension and outreach, effective June 1.

**Registration opens for LC
conference**

Iowa State's annual learning
communities institute is scheduled for
May 10 at the Scheman Building.
Online registration is open.

Inside tools

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March 4, 2010



Where's Bob?

University photographer Bob Elbert shot this image of a freight elevator door on the street level of Zaffarano Physics Addition.

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March 4, 2010

Budget first drafts due April 1

by Anne Krapfl

The university's budget units are working toward an April 1 deadline to submit budget first drafts to the executive vice president and provost's office. Last week, units received preliminary reduction numbers for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The reduction targets assume there will be no additional state appropriations next year and make permanent this year's \$24.5 million mid-year reversion. A combination of mandatory unpaid days for all employees, a temporary reduction in the university's share of TIAA-CREF contributions, a partial campus shutdown over winter break and reductions to departmental expenses covered the reversion in the current budget.

The reduction targets also don't count on Gov. Chet Culver's proposal to restore about \$10.8 million of the reversion.

"Until the Legislature completes its work, things are uncertain," said associate vice president for budget and planning Ellen Rasmussen. "We'd rather overshoot the reduction at this preliminary stage."

Rasmussen emphasized the preliminary nature of this round of planning. Key variables that aren't resolved yet include:

- Tuition estimate based on projected fall enrollment (new estimate due in late March)
- Final state appropriations (resolved when the Legislature adjourns in late March)

She said final budget plans likely will be due in mid-May, with operating budget details ironed out in June.

Differential reductions

The reduction targets range from 4.8 percent to 6.75 percent of state appropriation funding. Noting that in an environment in which all units "are meeting goals and contributing to the mission of the university," executive vice president and provost Elizabeth Hoffman wrote last week in her most recent [budget memo](#) that it is "challenging to differentiate among units." Hoffman said her decision reflects lengthy discussions last fall by senior leadership and budget advisory groups, out of which came a [list of factors for differentiating \(pdf\)](#). The factors include:

- Core to the institutional mission (includes teaching, service, research and support services)
- Program excellence (for example, national rankings, accreditation or uniqueness within Iowa)
- Importance to maintaining undergraduate enrollments (includes academic and non-academic units)
- Importance to enhancing and supporting externally funded research

A few services or funds are exempted from sharing the \$24.5 million cut. They include: admissions, the Institutional Excellence Fund, student financial aid, deferred maintenance, central utilities and utilities for general university classrooms.

Other variables in the proposed budget

Beyond an expected \$24.5 million less in state appropriations next year, other changes will shape the FY11 budget. Additional revenue will come from both indirect cost recovery on externally funded

research and a 6 percent resident tuition increase (4.1 percent for non-residents). Additional expenses will include an estimated \$5 million to \$7 million in unavoidable cost increases (such as rising employee benefits costs, salary increases required by the merit contract or for faculty promotions, library subscriptions and opening Hach Hall and the biorenewables research laboratory). At this early point in the planning process, the projected net effect is a deficit for most units that generate income, from several hundred thousand to several million dollars.

No rebalancing

For the first time in the three-year history of the budget model, no "rebalancing" will be done at the start of the fiscal year. During the first two years, funds were redistributed to balance differences between a college or vice presidential unit's revenues and expenses. Heading toward July 1, units showing a deficit will have to cut expenses. Units showing a surplus can commit those funds where needed. Rasmussen said the first two years under the new budget model were a transitional period. She said the budget model has incentives built into it, and the practice of rebalancing every July 1 doesn't allow those incentives to really work.

Making the mid-year reversion permanent for FY11 Preliminary reductions

Colleges	Reduction	Percent reduction*
Ag and Life Sciences	\$3,019,896	4.80
Business	\$982,642	6.10
Design	\$837,554	6.75
Engineering	\$2,307,425	4.80
Human Sciences	\$1,561,285	6.75
Lib Arts and Sciences	\$4,737,922	5.45
Veterinary Medicine	\$1,602,998	5.45
Library	\$974,394	4.80
VP units		
Business and finance	\$2,355,586	6.10
Executive VP/provost	\$584,135	6.10
Extension and outreach	\$1,961,183	6.10
Research and economic dev	\$918,613	4.80
Student affairs	\$969,386	6.10
IT Services	\$384,825	4.80
President	\$610,162	6.30
Subtotal	\$23,808,006	
Special purpose**		
Leopold Center	\$45,821	10.00
Livestock disease research	\$19,928	10.00
Vet Diagnostic Lab	\$382,699	10.00
Small Business Dev Center	\$99,437	10.00

Institute for Physical Research and Technology	\$161,227	10.00
ISU Research Park	\$14,446	10.00
Total	\$24,531,564	

*Percent of FY10 base budget minus exempted services and funds

**Receive their own direct state appropriation

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A river ran through it

There's still time to see the striking sculptures made from river trash that were on display at last week's sustainability symposium. The pieces were moved to the Parks Library rotunda and will remain on display through March. They're the work of Ogden artist David Williamson and numerous volunteers who've dredged tons of trash out of Iowa rivers over the past several years. The annual cleanup, dubbed Project Aware, is run by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Iowa State is a longtime project supporter.

A fish fashioned from a bicycle seat (top) is part of the river imagery in the sculpture (below). The sculpture also includes rebar canoes and an oar and work gloves cast in the "W" sign for water. *Photos by Bob Elbert.*

Meet the artist March 25

Williamson will give a hour-long talk (3:15 p.m., 192 Parks) and tour of the sculptures on March 25. He'll remain available in the rotunda for questions and discussion through 5:30 p.m.



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March 4, 2010

Strategic plan moves forward

by Erin Rosacker

Development of ISU's 2010-15 strategic plan took another step forward. Armed with task force reports, the steering committee is working to complete a draft by the end of the month. Two open forums to discuss the draft plan are scheduled in April.

Last fall, four task forces were asked to focus on each of president Gregory Geoffroy's goals for 2050. They submitted **their reports** to the steering committee last month. Geoffroy's four university goals for 2050 are to:

- Be a magnet for attracting truly outstanding students
- Be a magnet for attracting world-class faculty to teach, conduct research and advance their scholarly interests, with the support of staff who are among the best in their areas of expertise
- Be internationally known for addressing major problems of our planet, especially food, energy, infrastructure, water, health and sustainability
- Be a treasured resource for Iowa, the United States and the world

Feedback on the draft plan will be gathered at the open forums, by **e-mail** and **online**. The open forums are scheduled for:

- April 8 (noon-1 p.m., 1115 Pearson)
- April 26 (2:10-3 p.m., 119 Gerdin)

A final strategic plan will be submitted to Geoffroy by June 30. He will present it to the state Board of Regents for approval.

More information

A **complete list** of steering committee and task force members, a timeline and information about the strategic planning process are online.

March 4, 2010

ComETS wants to know what you think

by Paula Van Brocklin

If you have a desire to share your thoughts about the university's educational technology services and applications, you'll soon have the chance to do just that.

ComETS (Community of Educational Technology Support), a newer group of about 210 ISU faculty, staff and graduate students with a shared interest in academic technology, is spearheading a comprehensive needs-assessment survey to find out how well the university is meeting the technological and pedagogical needs of its employees and students.

What will be covered?

ComETS is seeking faculty and professional and scientific staff input on a variety of topics, including:

- The usefulness of WebCT (ISU's course management system)
- Classroom technology
- "Cloud computing" tools (i.e., Ning, blogs, wikis, Skype, Flickr, etc.)
- Consumer electronics (mobile phone, personal digital assistants, etc.) as a means of instruction

From students, ComETS wants to know:

- How they access technology (i.e., laptop, cell phone, smart device, Kindle, etc.)
- Use of social networking sites for classes, coursework
- Attitudes toward WebCT
- Benefits of campus computer labs

When the ComETS steering committee first met about 10 months ago, many wondered how well the current technologies were serving the campus community.

"One of the first questions that group asked was, 'What do you we really need here on campus? We know what we provide, but are we really meeting the needs?' And as we looked around the table, none of us really knew," said Jim Twetten, director of ITS academic technologies.

That's when the idea of a survey took root. All faculty and P&S staff will receive the survey via e-mail the week of March 22 and have at least a week to complete it. A sampling of students will receive a version of the survey that targets their needs.

Timetable

Once the survey results are compiled, ComETS will determine which issues need further review and discussion. In April, ComETS will create focus groups to help further illuminate the issues. Data from the focus groups will be compiled in mid-May, and final results from the survey and focus groups should be available in July.

"We think that between the survey and the focus groups, it will demonstrate to us a set of needs," Twetten said.

Twetten said the survey results will not be available in time to help the FY11 budget situation, but that wasn't the initial goal.

"We're not doing this because of the budget crisis," he said. "We're doing this because we want to make sure we're doing everything right, or find out if there's a need to shift our resources."

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March 4, 2010

BYOC to save green

by Erin Rosacker

ISU Dining is making it easier for customers to save money and the environment. Beginning March 8, you can save 35 cents on beverage purchases just by bringing your own cup.

A discount program for patrons using **ISU Dining tumblers** has been in place for a few years, but this new initiative also allows customers to bring in their own beverage containers. The 35-cent discount is available at all retail locations on fountain drinks and hot beverages. This excludes the residential dining centers, where one price covers the cost of meals and drinks.

"We're now taking it to the next level," said Nancy Levandowski, director of ISU Dining. "We want this to be something that's easy for our customers and becomes a habit for all of us."

Last fall, a **campus trash sort** revealed that ISU coffee cups topped the list of discarded items. ISU Dining estimated that more than 400,000 cups -- about six tons of waste -- were used and thrown away from July 2008 to June 2009.

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How do they do that?

Acrobats, jugglers and clowns, oh my! This is not your typical circus, but a theatrical performance of seemingly impossible stunts set to music and dramatic lighting. Le Grande Cirque takes the stage March 11 at Stephens Auditorium (7:30 p.m.). Tickets, available at the Stephens box office or through [Ticketmaster](#), are \$33-37 for adults, \$25 for youth and \$20 for ISU students. *Contributed photo.*

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