

Dear Harrah Hotel College Constituents,

As I am sure you have heard, Nevada's fiscal challenges have required cuts in all areas, including higher education. Since 2007, UNLV has endured close to \$50 million in cuts, resulting in drastic cuts in departments and programs throughout the university, including a loss of more than 540 positions. On top of those historical actions, UNLV has been asked by the Nevada Governor to cut an additional \$47.5 million out of the university budget for the next biennium.

Each college on campus, including the Harrah Hotel College, has been given a target for budget cuts and was asked to make recommendations for how we can implement them. This has required all deans to challenge the programs and services currently being offered to our students.

This letter is meant to initiate communications directly from me to clearly state the facts related to budget impacts on the college. I will do subsequent communications as circumstances suggest.

The recommendations which I have made for the Harrah Hotel College total nearly \$1.5 million, representing a 17% reduction in our state funding. To achieve these budget savings, we recommended the following actions related to our academic programs:

- **Consolidate four Bachelor of Science degrees into one.** Prior to 2004, there had been only one degree, so this change returns us to our very successful roots.
- **Consolidate nine majors into one major (Hospitality Management) and create formal "concentrations" in four specialized areas of study.** These concentrations will be in Meetings & Events Management, Food & Beverage, Gaming Management, and Professional Golf Management. This will continue to enable and encourage students with an interest in these specialized areas to concentrate their electives around a field of study. Once again, this is a return to the basic structure which existed very successfully in the past.
- **Eliminate programs not focused on our hospitality core mission and/or without sufficient enrollment to support funding.** The programs to be eliminated are Recreation & Sport Management and our Entertainment minor (pending appropriate university processes and Board of Regents approval).
- **Reduce course offerings (electives)** to those in highest demand, those that are most critical to our core mission and those that have the strongest application to the industry.
- **Increase workloads** (teaching and other) throughout the college.

As we developed these recommendations, we focused on our core mission of providing a premier education in hospitality management – then worked to objectively challenge our academic structure, programs, and curriculum to assure ourselves that we were as effective and efficient as possible in carrying out our mission. It was a tough, but healthy process. Throughout the process we remained committed to maintaining the incredible reputation that this college has achieved over the course of the past four decades – and to ensure that our students receive the best possible academic preparation for

entering the workforce and achieving their career goals. I am extremely confident that we have done that.

Students currently enrolled in majors that will be consolidated into the one Hospitality Management major will have the option to continue in their existing major until they graduate, or they may elect to change to the new Hospitality Management major. This provides maximum flexibility to our students.

UNLV has set up a comprehensive [UNLV Budget Updates](#) website that includes summaries of budget cuts incurred in the past, current proposals, the budget cut process, as well as communications from UNLV President Neal Smatresk.

Additionally, the Harrah Hotel College Advocacy Toolkit, is helpful in understanding the Hotel College's mission and impact in our community and around the globe. See the link below:
<http://hotel.unlv.edu/about/pdf/MakinganImpact.pdf>

These are truly difficult times – unprecedented times. The Harrah Hotel College is dedicated to being student-focused and responsive to the hospitality industry we serve. I am personally committed to keeping you informed as we move forward to implement these changes in our program.

Below is a list of some useful numbers to call if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donald D. Snyder

Dean, William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration at UNLV

New and prospective students: please contact the Hotel College Advising Center at (702) 895-3616

Dean's Office: (702) 895-3308