

Update on Legislative Session

April 1, 2016

Dear UK Family,

Over the past few months, the Governor and Kentucky General Assembly have worked diligently to craft a two-year budget for the state. The Governor rightly placed the substantial pension challenge at the center of these conversations. The Kentucky House and Senate presented their versions of the budget earlier this month and addressed this serious issue in different ways. The House's approach did not cut higher education; the Senate's version included reductions to our state appropriation. Over the last several days, leadership from both chambers met in a conference committee to try to find common ground.

Despite the best efforts of legislators of both parties in both chambers, the conferees have been unable to reach agreement on a budget for the next biennium - 2016-17 and 2017-18. We remain hopeful that a compromise will be reached in the days ahead.

I appreciate their willingness to listen to our story about the importance of the University of Kentucky and all of higher education to the current economic condition and future health and well-being of the Commonwealth. Ours is a compelling story of progress and hope for every life we touch. And we have shared it in a strong, positive, and respectful way. I have been assured repeatedly that policy-makers understand our value, even as they wrestle with serious budgetary constraints.

Thank you for the hard work you do, every day, to teach the 30,000+ students on our campus; treat over 37,000 patients in our hospitals and 1.4 million visitors to our clinics; conduct research that saves lives, improves conditions, and carries with it over \$580 million in annual impact; and serve communities in every county of our state.

As the General Assembly continues its work toward an agreement, the Governor is moving forward with a 4.5 percent reduction in state support for Kentucky's public higher education institutions that he announced in January. We will be working in the weeks ahead to determine how best to manage this reduction. And we will keep you informed.

Sincerely,  
Eli Capilouto  
President