The Daily Collegian
New England's Largest College Daily online

SGA to discuss budget

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Issue date: 12/9/08 **Section:** News

The Student Government Association (SGA) will host a town-hall style meeting about the campus budget crisis, tonight at 7 p.m. in the Student Union.

The meeting will be held in the Commonwealth Room, also known as Earthfoods Café. It is open to all students of the University of Massachusetts "as a space to exchange information on how the UMass budget crunch will affect students as early as next year," according to SGA president Malcolm Chu.

"The meeting can be an opportunity for students to learn what the Task Force has been discussing in its meetings," said Chu, one of three students who sit on the Chancellor's Budget Task Force.

"While the Task Force meetings have been open to the public, the fact that only two undergraduate students and one graduate student sit on the Task Force suggests that student input is marginalized," said Chu. "Rather than tokenize students in this discussion on how the University's funding and allocations will change, we want as many students as possible to not only be informed of the current situation, but also actively working to plan the University's response to the upcoming budget cuts," Chu continued.

The mid-year cuts from Gov. Deval Patrick's office eliminated between $11 and $12 million of UMass' budget. Some are anticipating more significant cuts in the near future, according to Chu.

The immediate effects of such cuts to the budget vary, and could include increasing class sizes.

Chancellor Holub recently released a message to the Budget Task Force outlining specific priorities for the Task Force that he has in mind.

"Departments must be ready to enter the next academic year with a teaching staff that is perhaps smaller than they had anticipated it would be," said Holub.

Members of the SGA's executive cabinet, the Student Senate, and several area governments are expected to attend the meeting.

Students are invited to bring questions about the budget process, ideas for how to alleviate financial burdens placed on students, as well as potential strategies to maximize student input in decision-making bodies of the University, Chu said.

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POLL

How will you cope with finals?

- Finals!? But it's only...oh holy crap finals are next week!
- Binge drinking
- Denial
- Positive thinking, lots of sleep and healthy studying
- Caffeine, caffeine and more caffeine
- Finals are a piece of cake for me

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