They say that June gloom is behind us but unfortunately this isn’t the case in regards to the state budget. I have been waiting to give you an update, hoping to have more definitive information, but as you can see from Scott Lay’s latest update below not much is available.

“There is little in the way of budget news to report. While the Democratic leaders in both houses have reportedly agreed to a general framework, and separate negotiations appear to be occurring between Senate Democratic and Republican leaders, there doesn’t appear to be any conversations involving all leaders, including the governor.

Meanwhile, the budget clock continues to tick, and our colleges continue to engage in costly borrowing to keep the doors open in absence of state funding. Unfortunately, some of our colleges have already been forced to close their doors this summer as student demand far exceeds available resources.”

We have much better news for our college. Although we were forced to reduce the summer session, we were still able to serve over 8,500 students. Also, preliminary figures indicate that we have met our budget-saving target. What does this mean for us? We can hopefully sustain our currently planned fall and spring class schedules without additional significant cuts. In addition, although many of our neighboring colleges have implemented furloughs and base salary cuts, we have managed to avoid this situation.

However, we will continue to proceed cautiously due to the uncertainties from the state. We know that we will not receive state apportionment funds as scheduled. We have been advised to be prepared to not receive any funds until September or October. The Board of Trustees has approved a borrowing plan to be implemented should such a delay occur to ensure that we will be able to meet payroll obligations.

I hope that all of you are able to enjoy some time with your family and friends during the summer session and are preparing for the beginning of the new academic year. We will continue to focus our attention on serving our students and achieving our mission:

With student learning as the paramount destination, Cerritos College guides students with the map and the means to make their educational aspirations a reality. The college takes pride in offering open access education for associate degrees, transfer, career technical training, basic skills, and lifelong learning. Creating career pathways and opportunities for self-enrichment that benefit the economic vitality of its unique, multicultural community, Cerritos College values diversity and employs learning programs and student services that underscore student success. Faculty, staff, administrators, and students partner to promote relevance in today’s global community by nurturing intellectual curiosity and applauding academic excellence.