

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

With the end of the federal stimulus money, the full impacts of the fraudsters on Wall Street are barreling toward us like a freight train. The failures of those bankers, like the failures of our state politicians, are also being covered up by having us pay for the crisis that they created when their malfeasance tanked the economy and state tax revenues fell off a cliff. This is exacerbating the gaps in already over-stretched state budgets, resulting in looming larger attacks on universities across the nation.

Plans are being made for a further 35% cut to funding for UNO for next year on top of the multiple, massive 30% cuts that have already happened. The LSU Board of Regents may decide as early as this semester to declare “financial exigency,” which is basically a declaration of emergency that allows them to fire even tenured faculty. These calls for sudden reductions of funding may even result in the closing of whole colleges (Liberal Arts, watch out!).

Jindal has said his plan is to expand technical schools and cut back on 4-year schools, but we know this will only lead to our state falling even further behind the nation in educational achievement. Perhaps Jindal and his industry pals want an uneducated, desperate workforce who don't understand how larger structural political and economic forces work. Instead, we want an educated, innovative population that can understand and shape our city and state so we can build a better future!

WHY WE MUST DISRUPT BUSINESS AS USUAL:

Right now Chancellor Tim P. Ryan and the administration have no incentive to fight the budget cuts, because the university is still functioning smoothly. Their job is to maintain order, and so far this has more-or-less been the case. Looking to politicians and the administration is the way the disempowered have been taught to seek change. In reality, it is only when the university is disrupted that we will force them to have both the incentive and bargaining power to bring to Baton Rouge on why the cuts must end. Otherwise their loyalties will remain with the interests of the rich and powerful, and not us.

However we do not merely wish for a return to the pre-budget-cut normalcy, a situation just as precarious as today, where the funding could be cut from beneath us at any time because we are not in control of the university ourselves. We need a university where students, workers, and faculty make the decisions about the university together. This is the only way to have a secure future for UNO, when the people who care about it run it, instead of people whose interests are only in balancing budgets in the short-term, regardless of whether it destroys our future.

Through walk-outs, strikes, occupations and other disruptions of the university we put the administration and politicians into an untenable situation, instead of them putting us into one. Our goal is to make the university ungovernable until the attacks against us end, and students, faculty, and workers are in control of the university so that they can never happen again.

STRIKE AGAINST THE CUTS

A GUIDE TO THE UNO CRISIS

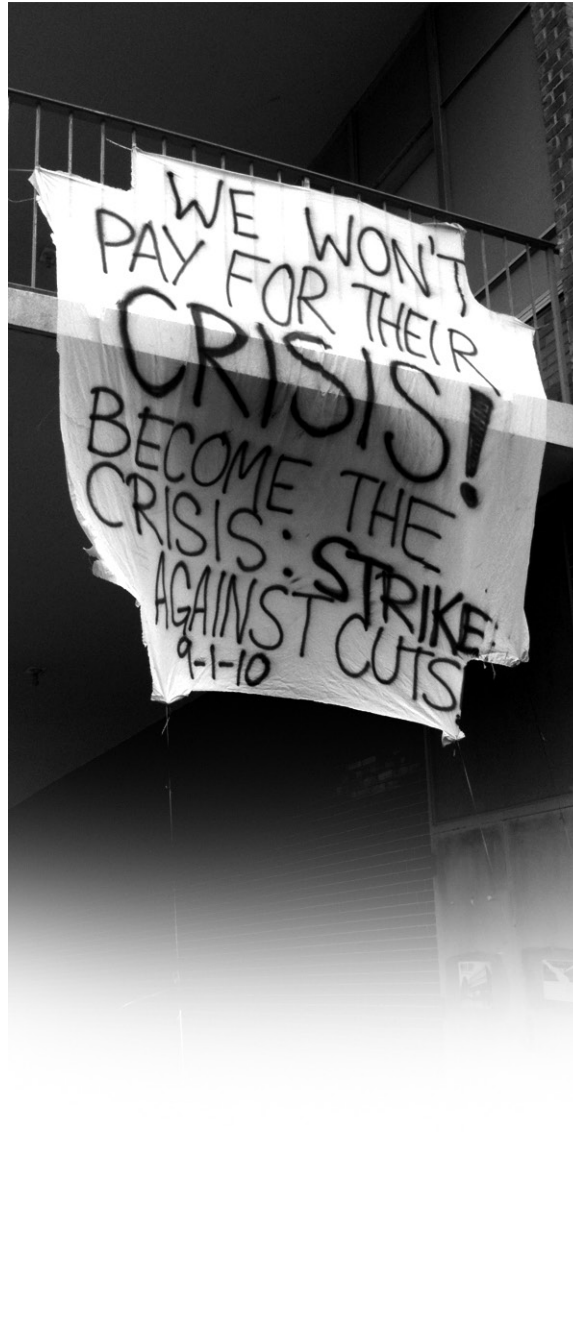


WHAT BUDGET CUTS HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED?

The past two years have seen constant attacks on students by politicians and administrators, in an attempt to fill the budget gap caused by their own mismanagement. They are trying to solve their crisis by making it into our crisis. They have raised tuition every semester, leading to cumulative increases of over 20%. They have cut many programs, cut the number of teachers (our class sizes this semester are significantly larger than last semester), cut scholarships, cut back meal plans, fired janitors, fired staff, and implemented new fees to various programs. And as a result, we've lost even more faculty as people try to jump from this sinking ship. These cuts, as always, disproportionately effect those whose ability to go to college is already generally the most tenuous: minority students, women, single parents, first generation college attendees, and adult students.

Even all these cuts have not been enough to compensate for their negligence, and they continue to nickel and dime us to death, meanwhile never taking one pay cut from their astronomical salaries. Petty indignities like having to pay for printing on top of our technology fee, firing cleaning staff resulting in filthy buildings, and taking away paper for teachers to make copies gives lie to the idea that the administration is doing anything other than carrying out attacks on those who are the least powerful and able to fight back, rather than confronting the powerful interests who caused this crisis.

Of course, you know better than we do what new attacks on your department have been occurring. Take the initiative in your department to fight the cuts by getting organized.



**FOR MORE INFO:
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ADMINISTRATION: ON OUR SIDE?

While we've been forced to accept massive cuts, the top of the administrative pyramid has only seen raises in the past two years, as they take up an increasingly larger percentage of university budgets.

LSU System President John Lomardi:

\$600,000 A YEAR

LSU Board of Regent
Commissioner Sally Clausen:

\$400,000 A YEAR

LSU Chancellor:

\$400,000 A YEAR

UNO Chancellor Tim Ryan:

\$250,000 A YEAR

Twenty of the top 25 highest paid state employees come from the LSU system. Why does Lombardi think he deserves to make this much, especially when you take it in the context of the obvious failure he has resided over?

The promise of higher education being "equally accessible to all" will remain empty so long as this conflict of interest remains between these bureaucrats getting rich, and our access to education.