

Observations About Economic Hard Times

Part I

Today we start a series of articles recommending what to do during economic hard times facing colleges and universities. The first article we offer is “[Take a Hard Look at Academic Programs and Weed Out the Weak](#)” by Charles Miller.

Mr. Miller gets our attention with an all too common higher education spending strategy: “Get all the money you can, and spend all that you get.” It is not hard to recount confirming examples. During a previous economic downturn, our library committee was asked to reduce expenditures on journals and books. My colleagues refused claiming that all future allocations would be reduced. They made this decision in the face of documentations accumulated by our librarians that no one was reading the expensive academic accounting journals we were purchasing. I was accused of not doing my job and removed from the library committee for voting against unnecessary expenditures.

Enjoy Mr. Miller’s observations.

Marc DePree
Editor, usmnews.net