



Dear BSU Community,

Following last week's [campus update](#) regarding the university's budget and path forward, we want to address some concerns and misconceptions that have emerged.

As part of our commitment to transparency and keeping the campus community informed, we shared that the FY27 budget will require a reduction of an "[estimated 79 positions through a combination of vacancies, reorganization and layoffs.](#)" Unfortunately, this has led to the inaccurate perception that 79 employees will lose their jobs. **The figure does not equate to 79 employees being separated from the university.**

As a reminder, we encourage you to attend the [FY27 Budget Forum](#) on **May 15, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. The forum will provide an opportunity to learn more about the university's financial outlook and budget, the planning process, review available resources and support, and participate in continued dialogue. Previous [budget presentations](#) also remain available online for review.**

We also want to address recent claims that Bowie State University has experienced a 27% enrollment decline since 2022. That characterization reflects a selective comparison rather than a comprehensive review of the data.

The comparison relies on Fall 2022 as the baseline year, which represented an atypical enrollment peak for Bowie State University, particularly among first-time, full-time freshmen. Nationally, 2022 also marked a period in which [HBCUs experienced a 2.5% increase in undergraduate enrollment.](#)

A broader review of the data presents a more balanced picture. Between Fall 2020 and Fall 2025, total enrollment at Bowie State declined from 6,250 to 5,970 students, **representing a 5.4% decrease over five years, not 27%**. Over the most recent one-year period, enrollment declined by 6.0%. Looking more closely, graduate enrollment increased 25.1% over five years, while undergraduate enrollment declined 10.6% over five years.

These trends also underscore a broader challenge impacting higher education institutions nationwide: college affordability continues to be one of the most significant barriers facing students and families today.

We will share more information about enrollment during the meeting on Friday. In the meantime, thank you for exhibiting Bulldog pride by helping to keep the campus community informed with accurate information.

Sincerely,

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President

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