Several San Jose State students and administrators voiced their concerns regarding the university’s $92.7 million budget deficit for the 2020-21 fiscal year, which involves various cuts to campus services while tuition fees remain unchanged.

Political science senior Helana Almazar spoke on a low enrollment issue and said she knows several people who are choosing not to enroll in college during the coronavirus pandemic.

“Are there definitely areas that [the university] could downtone, such as the outdoor building and dining halls? [administrators] make, versus to help us sell our tuition,” Almazar said.

“She said SJSU students shouldn’t be forced to pay full-priced fees for buildings that are not fully operating during the Fall semester, like the Student Union and the Spartan Recreation and Aquatic Center.

“By the time [the university] gouges us out of all of our money, [students] won’t even have money to have a car to put in their fancy new parking lots that [administrators] keep building,” Almazar said.

The more than $92 million budget deficit includes changes in the enrollment net, Spring refunds like housing, meals and parking, as well as a $3 million athletics revenue loss.

Charlie Faas, vice president for administration and finance, and Kenneth Mashinchi, senior director of media relations, both discussed the effects of the pandemic on the university’s budget in a Sept. 23 SJSU Newsroom video post.

“Let’s see how we can get out of this deficit,” Faas said.

“By continuing to do these things, we can potentially make changes in the enrollment net, and potentially have more money to have a car to put in their fancy new parking lots that [administrators] keep building,” Almazar said.

“About 80% of the university’s $26 million budget is for labor-related costs, which accounts for salary and benefit expenses for faculty members, staff and student employees. This percentage will remain relatively fixed and flat through the 2020-21 school year, according to the CSU Operating Budget Update website.

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Third Street Birria

RATING:

Cuisine: Mexican

Location: 87 East Santa Clara St.

Price: $5

Quesabirria de res is a crunchy beef taco with melted cheese paired with a side of hearty dipping broth. The taste of the quesabirria on its own is amazing but I added their green spicy salsa and finely chopped onions and cilantro, creating a perfect balance between fresh ingredients and the hot meat and cheese. The crunchy golden tortilla held together perfectly thanks to the cheese and tallow, so it didn’t fall right off the bone. This quickly became a new favorite food spot for the hangover, "para la cruda," meaning "for the hangover," in Spanish. Even after finishing my quesabirria tacos, I ate the consomé as a soup. The consomé is sold separately, but it is highly recommended to purchase in order to fully enjoy the quesabirria experience.

The social media craze for Birria tacos bring authentic flavors and tradition. "exquisite savory dish, full of culture and tradition. "

The pop-up only takes Venmo payments. With every purchase, the "cha-ching" of the Venmo notification briefly interrupted Los Tigres del Norte music as I heard the mouthwatering sizzle of the grill as the goosy cheese melted on the sides of each red tortilla. Even though the bakery was small, it felt spacious and well santized. The strong savory smell of butter and all the aromas of the traditional Mexican music blasting in the shop took me back to childhood Mexican parties as I patiently waited to get home to enjoy the aromatic quesabirria, but I heard the mouthwatering sizzle of the grill as the goosy cheese melted on the sides of each red tortilla. For the fans of Birria, I would highly recommend visiting the shop. You can tell a lot about a business with an expanded menu. This quickly became a new favorite food spot for the hangover, "para la cruda," meaning "for the hangover," in Spanish.

For the fans of Birria, I would highly recommend visiting the shop. You can tell a lot about a business with an expanded menu.
SJSU Athletics risks student safety

University sends players to Humboldt County to bypass Santa Clara County health guidelines

The San Jose State University athletics department has put the health and safety of its football program and residents over the bottom line, according to the team at risk by moving players and staff to Humboldt State for the upcoming season.

In a Sept. 20 news release, SJSU Athletics announced it had a plan to move 135 players, coaches and support staff to Humboldt State. The team will remain at HSU until Santa Clara County Public Health’s guidelines align with the team’s need to practice for the new eight-game season announced by the Mountain West Conference.

This means SJSU Athletics is prioritizing making money by participating in this truncated season over the well-being of the community and the HSU residents.

Lorena Fan, associate athletics director for football communications and special projects, and offensive tackle Jack Snyder revealed in an interview with the Spartan Daily that the football team would be staying at HSU for only one week of practices. This contrasts the original three-week stay in Arcata, which SJSU Athletics spokesperson Kenneth Mashinchi, senior director of media relations in an email. “All costs for temporarily moving teams, including meals, housing, use of their facilities, and round trip bus fare – will fall between $100,000-$150,000,” said Kenneth Mashinchi, Senior Director of Media Relations. “This is because the CEFCU Stadium renovations which are projected to cost $49 million.”

Nonetheless, by moving a large number of people to a different county in order to conduct player-contact practices, SJSU Athletics is saying that money is worth more than the well-being of its players, coaches, staff and the HSU community.

Santa Clara County alone has had a total of 21,000 cases of COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, according to the County’s public health website. Meanwhile, Humboldt County reported 524 cases since the beginning of the pandemic, according to its public health website. These numbers are significantly lower than the contrastive population densities in each county. However, two football teams tested positive for COVID-19 as asymptomatic cases in more than two months of testing, according to an SJSU Athletics news release from Sept. 8.

With this in mind, transporting that many staff members, coaches and student-athletes puts everyone involved in the move, the SJSU athletics department explained it would test the players, coaches and staff once a week at HSU according to a Sept. 30 news release. Yet, this promise by SJSU Athletics actually fails to fulfill the Mountain West Conference COVID-19 testing guidelines. In a Sept. 25 news release, the Mountain West Conference stated it requires all football players, coaches, trainers and other staff that are on the field to be tested three times per week.

According to an Oct. 3 Associated Press article, a total of 20,000 infections have broken out among several NFL teams. The Tennessee Titans reported 18 COVID-19 cases within the team, but instead of the league canceling the Titans’ Sunday game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, they just rescheduled it.

The New England Patriots and the Kansas City Chiefs each reported one confirmed COVID-19 case on Saturday including Patriots quarterback Cam Newton. However, both teams still played their scheduled game against each other Sunday.

The Mountain West Conference and the SJSU athletics department need to take the health of its players seriously because the infection rates of traveling NFL teams serve as an example for the future of collegiate players and teams in the conference. “SJSU Athletics is only increasing COVID-19 exposure risk to both San Jose and Humboldt communities by moving the entire football program to HSU just so it can avoid Santa Clara County’s COVID-19 public health guidelines and make a quick buck,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s FAQ page, someone can still test negative in the early stages of infection and later test positive in which they will have unknowingly infected individuals they come into contact with during that entire week between tests. Similar to Mountain West Conference’s protocol, SJSU Athletics would have to test members of the football program every day in order to ensure the safety of everyone transported and the community at HSU.

It is already becoming apparent in the NFL that even with constant testing and a COVID-19 injured reserve list, players are still being infected because their safety is not deemed as important as the profits made from the game.

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Follow The Spartan Daily on Twitter @SpartanDaily
SJSU football hopes fans stream games

By Jovanna Olivas

The San Jose State football team will be facing a nontraditional season amid the coronavirus pandemic. There will be no fans allowed in the CEFCU Stadium and this upcoming collegiate football season will be eight games rather than 12 according to a Sept. 24 news release from the Mountain West Conference.

In an Oct. 5 Zoom news conference at Humboldt State, SJSU football head coach Brent Brennan discussed plans to watch the Spartans play.

"I'm so excited for the upcoming season that it doesn't matter where we play, we're gonna get after it no matter what," said Brennan.

However, Humboldt community members and public health officials expressed concern because of SJSU's football team's sudden arrival.

Lawrence Fan, SJSU associate athletics director for football communications and special projects, said that according to Rob Thomas, SJSU associate athletics director for football operations, about 140 people including players, athletic management, camera crew and equipment crew transported to Humboldt. This runs contrary to the 135 people reported to have gone to Humboldt in the fall in the CEFCU Stadium.

"The news conference that the team appreciates SJSU for opening its campus to them in preparation for the upcoming season."

He expressed how the change of venue has been helpful for the team to bond and has further motivated them to start the season.

“We’re so excited for this upcoming season that it doesn’t matter where we play, we’re gonna get after it no matter what,” said Brennan.

"They’re wearing masks 100% of the time," said Brennan in regards to COVID-19 precautions. "The moments when they’re not wearing masks, they’re getting chewed out by me or anyone of the other coaches or one of the other teammates."

In an Oct. 4 phone interview with Jovanna Caratachea, an SJSU graphics design junior, said Brennan in regards to COVID-19 precautions.

The group is staying in Humboldt’s dorms while quarantining. Brennan said.

"They’re wearing masks 100% of the time," said Brennan in regards to COVID-19 precautions. "The moments when they’re not wearing masks, they’re getting chewed out by me or anyone of the other coaches or one of the other teammates."

If you already went to the games in person before COVID, there was already low attendance. I’d rather see [SJSU] invest and put all those economical resources to something more useful like the health center or student homelessness.

Moiises Caratachea

graphic design junior

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