CA State Hayward’s administration sent notices to 63 university employee last week, informing them that to save money their jobs could be eliminated.

Though layoffs of staff were widely predicted, the number of notices surprised the CSUH Chancellor’s Office. The chancellor’s office has not released the number of layoffs that were announced.

“Local CSU campuses have sent similar notices,” said CSU President Norma S. R. Rees. “The chancellor’s office made the determination that layoffs would yield savings of $7 million to $8 million."

CSUH President Norma S. R. Rees said the university was going on a worst-case scenario that preserves student access to a quality education. She said that for now only managers and non-teaching administrators without tenure have been targeted for layoffs. She added that CSUH’s administration had not decided what departments or units would be cut.

The Layoff Committee, whose purpose is to make recommendations to the University President Norma Rees respecting the impact of budget cuts, released its draft report April 21.

“These are real sacrifices,” the faculty committee said in its draft report. "CSUH’s administration, which recently announced a $22.6 million loss for the academic year, said it was interested in saving money because its spending on faculty salaries and staff services was growing more than revenues from student fees and other sources.

State expenditures per CSU student have risen annual dramatically in recent years. In 1990-91, the CSU received an average of $10,742 per student. This plummeted 21.6 percent in 2002, to $4,244 per student.

The committee has made suggestions to encourage savings by reducing the university’s housing capacity, raising enrollment capacity in lower division survey classes and general education cluster courses, controlling large class assignments and diversifying course schedules to offset the effects of cutting classes.

The theater was re-opened and built by 11 Hispanic youths, ages 8 to 21, and is maintained and operated by the children. The theater’s annual budget is 70 percent from the sale of tickets, refreshment counter and private donations. The balance is raised from small churches and from grants from local foundations.

"In the past, the Fruitvale community has given us support and encouragement," said John Furman, executive director of CSUH’s Theatre. "The next step will be to continue the community school, which has resulted in a significant increase of community support."