

# Muse's Remarks

Faculty Senate Meeting  
November 13, 2001

I want to report to you on several important matters.

First, the University's financial situation is difficult but manageable. Through the efforts of President Broad, the Governor's announced 4% reversion has been lowered to 2.7% for the UNC System. But we still must maintain adequate reserves to handle a higher reduction because the state's economy shows no signs of an early recovery and could worsen. We have resolved to absorb the cuts in areas that cause the least damage to our instructional program and must remain committed to serving the needs of our students as our first priority.

Secondly, I want to share with you organizational issues I am evaluating and to invite your input on matters about which you have an interest or a concern. The first issue is the leadership of the Health Sciences Division and, specifically, the question of whether the positions of Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine should be filled by one person or by two individuals. The second issue is whether the position of Provost should be established to provide leadership for the Academic Affairs Division and, if so, what functions should report to that person. I am in the process of meeting with appropriate administrators in each division for their input and would welcome any comments you might like to provide. You can send them to me by mail or e-mail ([musew@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:musew@mail.ecu.edu)).

Since our last meeting, I have continued my visits with units on the campus, including Business, Allied Health, Medicine, Health and Human Performance, and

Continuing Studies. I have also visited two community colleges (Pitt and Carteret) and been to Morehead City and Beaufort as a part of our Hometown Tour program. And I had an opportunity to meet and talk with Governor Easley and Lt. Governor Perdue. These events are time-consuming but have helped me gain a better understanding of ECU and its special role in the state.

I hope many of you had an opportunity to hear Jim and Karen Nichols when they were on the campus recently as consultants for our SACS self-study. They are very knowledgeable about SACS requirements and expectations, and we would be wise to heed their advice. The SACS and NCAA self-studies are important projects for us and I appreciate your input and involvement.

Lastly, let me extend my personal congratulations to Professor Henry Ferrell on receiving his 40-year service award today. It is an uncommon accomplishment to contribute forty years of teaching excellence and to be so successful also in research and service. Henry, you are to be commended and you have the respect of the faculty and the entire campus community. We look forward to your completion of 50 years!