

P. Martinez

We applaud the Chancellor's decision to "instruct all academic VC's to allow no cuts to the instructional budget until at least May 8th and until they have personally reviewed the Dean's cuts in those areas mandated by the Chancellor as priority areas to cut" (as expressed in his letter to Nicholas Georgalis, Philosophy). We also applaud the Provost's willingness to share information about ECU's cost-cutting efforts, as demonstrated in the Administrative Budget Report that was shared with the Faculty Senate at its March meeting. With the following resolution, we hope to continue such transparency and improve the success of efforts to make non-instructional cuts.

RESOLUTION ON the UNIVERSITY BUDGET – April 2009

Whereas, the mission of ECU is to serve as a national model for public service and regional transformation in this economically depressed part of the state, and

Whereas, the March 20 Values Statement of the UNC Board of Governors unequivocally calls on all constituent institutions to give academic instruction the top priority in the present circumstances, and

Whereas, the March 19 ECU Board of Trustees Policy Framework indicates that Academic Program reductions or eliminations are a last resort, and

Whereas, ECU Faculty Senate acknowledges the commitment of ECU Administration to these values, policies and support of EPA and SPA employees, and

Whereas, program removal requires thorough review, with full faculty participation and oversight, to assess potential impacts on the quality of university's educational mission, and

Whereas, the present faculty and staff have performed commendably in driving an increase both in enrollment and in research productivity in recent years;

Therefore be it resolved that the ECU Faculty Senate respectfully requests that Chancellor Ballard continue to keep us informed about budgetary changes that directly impact employment, including plans for eliminating and filling administrative, EPA non-teaching, faculty, and staff positions.

Be it further resolved that the ECU Faculty Senate respectfully requests that the reduction of faculty members available for classroom instruction be the absolute last resort.

Be it further resolved that the ECU Faculty Senate requests that no areas of the university's budget be removed from consideration for reduction while reductions in force or compensation for EPA and SPA employees are being contemplated.

Be it further resolved that the ECU Faculty Senate requests meaningful faculty participation in both major and final budgetary decisions via the in-place shared governance procedures and policies outlined in the ECU Faculty Manual, the UNC Code, the UNC Board of Governors, and the ECU Board of Trustees Policy Framework.

Be it further resolved that the ECU Faculty Senate requests that the ECU Administration affirm that financial exigency will be called for only as a last resort and that major curtailment will not take place without the aforementioned faculty participation.

Be it further resolved that the ECU Faculty Senate will aid and support ECU Administration in efforts to maintain current academic instruction, programs, employee compensation and job status.