



Faculty Senate

East Carolina University

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April 27, 2010

Chancellor Steve Ballard
East Carolina University
Spilman Building

Dear Dr. Ballard:

Earlier today, the Faculty Senate adopted the attached resolution on the 2010-2011 North Carolina State Budget for your consideration. Additional resolutions adopted by the Faculty Senate on April 27 will be forthcoming.

10-68 Resolution on the 2010-2011 North Carolina State Budget
(attached).

Thank you for your consideration of the above mentioned resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marianna Walker".

Marianna Walker
Chair of the Faculty

copy via email

Faculty Officers

Marilyn Sheerer, Provost, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs

Phyllis Horns, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences

Deirdre Mageean, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies

East Carolina University Faculty Senate Resolution #10-68

Approved by the Faculty Senate: April 27, 2010

Approved by the Chancellor:

RESOLUTION ON THE 2010-2011 NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUDGET

Whereas, education plays a vital role in our State's future economic health and the aspirations of millions of North Carolina families; and,

Whereas, an educated and highly skilled workforce is necessary for the economic progress of the State; and,

Whereas, the University of North Carolina System plays a leadership role in educating the people of our State and in the overall economic growth of North Carolina; and,

Whereas, continued excellence depends upon sustained, adequate funding; and,

Whereas, the projected budget cuts are of an enormous and shocking magnitude, especially following budget cuts over the past two years; and,

Whereas, the budget cuts will limit access to higher education for many residents of our State at a time when higher education enrollments are growing; and,

Whereas, academic reputations are built slowly over many years, and once compromised cannot be easily regained; and,

Whereas, the proposed cuts would *change the very nature of our universities* resulting in fewer academic advisors, fewer financial aid officers, and reduced student access to the courses they need to graduate on time; and,

Whereas, the University of North Carolina General Administration estimates that any budget cuts in excess of 2% would harm the academic core of the University and significantly reduce the quality of academic instruction and student experiences at all UNC campuses; and,

Whereas, the University of North Carolina has already absorbed approximately \$300 million or 29% of the current state budget reversions while the University represented only 13% of the total state budget; and,

Whereas, the proposed state budget currently recommends a reduction of 5.9% or \$154 million (a 3.9% reduction on top of the existing 2% cut) for the UNC System; and,

Whereas, 75% of the state budget allocated to the UNC System supports personnel expenses making it impossible to absorb large cuts without eliminating more jobs; and,

Whereas, the proposed cuts would result in the loss of 1,200 additional jobs in the UNC System; and,

Whereas, ECU's share of the proposed cuts would result in at least 100 lost positions, all affecting fundamental academic and student support, half of which would be faculty positions; and,

Whereas, previous budget reversions were largely taken from administrative cuts that protected the academic core; and,

Whereas, the previous rounds of budget cuts have already resulted in increased class sizes and fewer course offerings across the UNC System; and,

Whereas, these proposed budget cuts would cause retention and graduation rates to decline resulting in students leaving the University with accumulated debt and without achieving their academic goals; and,

Whereas, numerous academic programs, including those in high-demand fields such as nursing and the STEM disciplines, would be downsized; and, therefore,

Be It Resolved that the Faculty Senate of East Carolina University urges the State Legislature to prevent the most serious erosion in the quality of higher education in North Carolina by providing sufficient and appropriate funding for higher education; and,

Be It Further Resolved that the State budget include full funding for need-based financial aid to ensure access to higher education for the people of the State of North Carolina; and,

Be It Further Resolved that the State Legislature appropriately continue its historical commitment and attention to our State's higher education needs as envisioned in the original *Act of Incorporation (1789)* for the University of North Carolina by providing adequate higher education funding to ensure "the happiness of a rising generation, and endeavor to fit them for an honorable discharge of the social duties of life by paying attention to their education."