

Statement of Principles Regarding Budget Reductions and Allocations

East Carolina University has endured a challenging budgetary climate in recent years, and will likely face continuing reductions in the near future. In this context, the University Committee on Fiscal Sustainability has been charged with developing a set of recommendations to help ensure that the character and quality of ECU's academic mission will be maintained. In light of the campus-wide budget discussions currently taking place, the Faculty Senate offers the following statement affirming the values and principles that should guide any decisions about resource reductions and (re)allocations. In considering the impending budget reductions, we recommend that the University:

- Give the utmost priority to maintaining educational quality and protecting the academic core, that is, the curriculum-centered student-faculty relationship that lies at the heart of ECU's academic mission.
- Protect the capacity of faculty and students to engage in the original scholarship and creative activity that is integral to a vibrant academic core.



Figure 1. Concentric Ring Model of the Academic Core¹

- Ensure a budget process that is open and transparent, with opportunities for input from all campus constituencies.
- Give careful consideration to the human cost of budget reductions, and ensure that people are valued and treated with respect.
- Prioritize investments and strategic priorities according to merit and performance, and in light of ECU's mission and strategic vision.
- Preserve the widest possible access to higher education and consider the impacts of budget decisions on student recruitment, progress and retention.
- Ensure that efforts are made to maintain the diversity of students, faculty and staff.

1. Protecting the Academic Core Academic Core Sub-Committee of the UNC Faculty Assembly, 2009-2010