

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2009 4:04 PM

Dear Campus Community,

The North Carolina House continues to work on completing its budget for 2009-2011. The initial House Education Appropriation Subcommittee draft budget for the university system proposes \$337 million in cuts. This is an 11% cut to the university system budget. The final House budget is expected to be completed in the next two weeks.

If you have been following the situation in the media you know President Bowles has gone on record stating, "the cuts being proposed for the University would have severe and lasting negative impacts on student access and the quality of education our universities can offer." President Bowles continued stating he understands the severity of this recession and the extremely difficult choices the House is being forced to make to balance the State budget, but warned that "while it takes generations to build a great University like UNC, that hard-won quality and reputation will erode quickly if it is not adequately funded and sustained."

For UNCSA, an 11% budget reduction equals \$3.1 million, far exceeding the original 5-7% reductions initially discussed. UNCSA, along with the other UNC constituent campuses, has been actively advocating at NC General Assembly to minimize reductions since the session started in January and will continue until the process is complete. As most of you are aware, this campaign to clarify the uniqueness of UNCSA, its extraordinary achievements coupled with its financial fragility and structural poverty, has been an ongoing process. Most recently we have encouraged our students who are NC residents to write to their representatives. We have encouraged our Board of Trustees to make calls. Jim DeCristo continues his newsletter to all our elected representatives and I have made personal appeals to both our Board of Governors as well as our elected officials with mailings, phone calls and private meetings.

Once the House budget is completed, select members of the House and Senate will conference to resolve the differences between the two chambers budget proposals. The compromise budget must be passed by both the House and the Senate and signed by the Governor to become law. This process is supposed to be completed by June 30, 2009 in order that a new budget is in place for the new fiscal year starting July 1, 2009. In the past however the process has gone well into the summer before the budget is finalized.

In the last step of the process President Bowles and General Administration are likely to have some portion of the cuts to distribute amongst the campuses. Once the distribution is complete, UNCSA will know its final budget figure for 2009-2010.

We will continue to find ways to strengthen our case with both Raleigh as well as Chapel Hill, and I have asked my colleagues to prepare fact sheets on how the policies supporting Focused Growth Institutions as well as Enrollment Growth have inadvertently but significantly hurt UNCSA over the past decade.

I can assure you we are all working continuously to get our message across and we will do whatever it takes to preserve our school, not only for it to survive but also for it to thrive. As President Bowles said to me recently, "It would be criminal if we lost UNCSA."

Indeed.

Sincerely,

John