

University of North Carolina School of the Arts
Office of the Chancellor

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July 8, 2009

Dear Campus Community,

A week and a half ago, President Bowles informed the chancellors at all UNC campuses that we will need to submit plans for operating our school with a reduction in our state appropriation of 10 percent (\$2.7 million is our share). Since that time, I have been working with the deans and other members of senior administration to examine scenarios for cost-cutting that will allow us to best preserve our student experience and stay true to the short-term priorities set by our campus this past spring. As part of the measures necessary to attain that \$2.7 million savings this year, today we provided notice of reduction in force to five staff members from offices across campus. We have also cut operating budgets and 13 vacant positions.

This painful and enormously difficult step is part of the process that began last fall to manage our school's resources in this trying economic time – one that will continue, as long as the global economic crisis continues to affect not only the state of North Carolina, but also our own foundation endowment as well as our loyal supporters. We are grateful to President Bowles for giving each campus the flexibility to best administer these cuts. I, in turn, offered that same flexibility to our deans and department heads, so that they might best decide how to manage their resources. While preserving the jobs of existing employees has been and will remain a priority, with 75 percent of our annual operating budget earmarked for salaries, it was simply not possible to institute a cut of this magnitude without some layoffs.

We are a small campus, one on which everyone knows each other, supports each other and invests in each other's success. That makes this a particularly difficult action to take. I am joined by the deans and senior staff in thanking all of you for your steadfast commitment to the students and the mission of this great school.

Sincerely,

John