



July 21, 2011

Dear Students,

I hope you are having a great summer and creating fabulous art, whether you are in North Carolina or North Dakota, Canada or China.

I'm afraid we have some bad news. If you have been following the budget process in North Carolina, you know that in June the N.C. General Assembly approved a \$19.7 billion budget for the State of North Carolina. That budget includes \$414 million in cuts to the University of North Carolina system (of which we are a member), or 15.6 percent.

Recently, we learned from UNC General Administration (our University system "parent") that our cut was recommended to be 11.6 percent, or more than \$3.2 million. On July 7, the Committee on Budget and Finance of the UNC Board of Governors – which makes the final decision – approved budget cut allocations for the various UNC campuses ranging from 8.4 to 17.9 percent – with one amendment. The amendment decreased the UNCSCA reduction by \$226,948 to account for the fact that we do not receive tuition for our in-state high school students. With this amendment, our cut for 2011-12 is \$2.97 million, or 10.8 percent.

This number is significantly less than what we would have received in an across-the-board cut. As noted, other UNC schools are grappling with cuts over 15 percent – which would be devastating for us. We would, literally, be closing our doors.

It is, regrettably, still a substantial cut to our small school.

For the past several days, I have been meeting with my Senior Leadership Team and the Deans to discuss how to manage UNCSCA's budget reduction. We have also had discussions with the chairs of the Faculty and Staff councils and your Student Body President. After thorough analysis and careful deliberation, we have finalized a plan of action.

As part of the measures necessary to attain that amount of savings on a recurring basis, we are providing notice to seven staff members, from offices across campus, whose positions will be eliminated as a result of budget reductions. We have also eliminated six-and-a-half vacant staff positions, six vacant faculty positions, and an additional two faculty positions through retirement. In addition, we have moved one staff position to receipt-supported, and another to a non-operating budget funding source. (Note: As part of our preliminary cost-reduction efforts, on July 1 we

contracted with our sister campus, Winston-Salem State University, to perform our internal audit function, thereby losing the first of the seven filled staff positions.)

We have also cut operating budgets and our unallocated reserves.

I am sure it is a great relief to all of you to know we will not have to close our School of Filmmaking – as was projected in some of our budget-reduction scenarios. Still, the film school has borne significant cuts.

We know cutting vacant faculty positions will cause a ripple effect in your curriculum, because some of those “vacant” positions are actually salary lines used by the arts schools to hire adjunct and guest faculty to teach required courses. While we will have to do some creative problem-solving, we are confident that these changes will *not* impact your ability to graduate on time, with the courses you need.

And we know the loss of staff positions – and not filling vacant positions – will put even greater strain on already over-taxed support staff. No doubt, we will all have to adjust our expectations of the responsiveness of staff as they struggle to absorb additional responsibilities.

These were difficult decisions. But it was our obligation to protect the educational core of the school to the fullest extent possible, in order to preserve the mission of UNCSA. After all, you all are why we are here.

I wish I could tell you that we could wave a magic wand and replace what has been lost; however, raising funds to replace what most would consider basic operations is extremely difficult. Much of our private donations are for scholarships or special projects. I can tell you that all of us who are personally involved in fund raising will work harder than ever to increase private support as well as restore greater support from the State of North Carolina.

Rest assured, we will continue to educate you, our students, and conduct the business of our university. As perplexing as it sounds, we will continue to hire in certain critical positions. (We have a new Dean of Students starting on Monday! More about him later.)

I know all of you are concerned about how these changes will affect you. On behalf of the Senior Administration and Deans, I pledge that you, our students, will continue to remain our top priority and we will strive to minimize the impact of these cuts on your education at UNCSA. If there ever was a time for us to pull together, this is it. Every artist experiences times like these. If we look at the entity called UNCSA as an artist, then the artist worthy of that name prevails through creativity, passion, hard work and collaboration in the face of adversity. That means, we shall prevail.

Now go – make more art! August is just around the corner and there is a lot to do and create together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Mauceri".

John Mauceri, Chancellor  
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