

Dear colleague,

As the North Carolina House of Representatives considers its budget proposal, I would like to add my voice to that of other colleagues at Winston-Salem State University concerned by the potentially adverse effect of the proposed budget cuts.

Let's take the Political Science Unit in the Department of Social Sciences at WSSU as a case in point. We have eight (8) faculty, each required to teach four (4) courses per semester. Each of us is required to teach at least two (2) (sometimes three/3) sections of POS 2311: *American Government*, a general education course required for all of our undergraduate students. Typically, each section has an enrolment of 40 students. This means that we each have to do continuous assessment/grading for an average of 130/140 students (sometimes more) each semester. At the same time, we are expect to maintain a minimum record of research and publications, and we each have to advise an average of seven (7) to eight (8) students.

Obviously, our institutional capacity is already stretched to the limit, and comes Fall 2009, we shall all have to take on additional teaching and advisement duties, given the fact that all adjunct positions have been temporarily suspended.

Under these circumstances, any further budget cuts resulting in (temporary or permanent) loss of faculty positions and additional teaching/advisement duties for the remaining faculty shall make the delivery of quality instruction to our (typically underprivileged and underrepresented) students extremely difficult, if not outright impossible.

Please ask our North Carolina Representatives to consider this as they deliberate on the budget proposal.

Yours sincerely,

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