

From Prof. David Auerbach to colleagues at NCSU
Subject: Important faculty and staff petition

Dear NCSU Faculty and Staff,

Pasted below (and attached) is a very short petition that I'm hoping you can add your "signature" to. ("Sign" it by emailing back to me, from your university address, saying that it's OK.) President Erskine Bowles has been urging faculty to get involved, and this is a relatively easy way to do that. Time is of the essence here. I would like to send the petition to the NC House and Senate by Sunday. The Faculty Senate will likely be meeting this month and may issue a public statement. But it is important to do something now.

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We, the undersigned faculty and staff at North Carolina State University, urge the North Carolina Legislature to balance cuts in the state budget with tax increases--progressive income tax increases in the higher brackets and increases in so-called "sin taxes."

Raising taxes is the fairest way to "share the pain" of the economic downturn. Furthermore, such a balanced approach is much less destructive to the economy; increasing unemployment, decreasing spending power and removing vital services are not a recipe for economic recovery. Asking all North Carolinians to contribute a little, rather than having a few contribute a lot, is both fairer and wiser.

Here at NC State, many departments operate with budgets that are more than 98% salary. Large budget cuts simply means firing people and canceling classes. North Carolina has a proud record of public higher education and public higher education has been a vital part of North Carolina's prosperity. Severe damage to the UNC system, to the Community College system and to K-12 education will cause lasting harm. We know that "raising taxes" is a scary phrase; but raising taxes is the right thing to do.