

Dear Colleagues:

I'm writing with a further update on how you can help on the budget front as of Friday afternoon June 5, 2009.

Latest News: Cuts. Since yesterday, there is another version of the House budget that has even worse news. The House subcommittee deployed \$64.2 million in federal stimulus money into the University budget (this is short-term/temporary money) and took permanent state funds away in an equal amount. There was an increase in cuts for 2010-11 by \$59.2 million. That means that for 2010-2011 the University is looking at a 16.1% cut, the Community Colleges are facing 14.2% cut and the Department of Public Instruction will face 14.2% cut. On the capital front, there was a reduction of \$25 million for the Cancer Research Center for both 2009-2010 and again in 2010. I've attached the budget summary for your information.

Latest News: Revenues. There has apparently been a growing recognition that steps need to be taken to raise revenues, and committees and staff are apparently working on that. I have heard that the House is taking some modest steps in that direction and that the Senate wants the House to go first but won't adjourn without some kind of revenue package. I personally believe that this side of the equation must be addressed and that should be part of our message. A coalition of 80 nonprofit organizations has emerged (Together NC) urging that revenues be raised to counter some of the worst of the cuts.

There website is at <http://www.togethernc.org> and they have a separate page that allows you easily to contact Governor Perdue and state legislators at:

<http://capwiz.com/ncjustice/issues/alert/?alertid=13416646> The North Carolina Justice Center also has background about how other states are addressing revenue shortfalls: <http://www.ncjustice.org/?q=node/306>

Latest News: Timing. It is anticipated that the House full appropriations committee will meet to finalize the proposed budget on next Tuesday (June 9) and that the resulting budget will go to the House floor next Wednesday (June 10) with a final House budget to be passed by the end of next week.

Ways to Help NOW! Your help is of critical importance at this time. Please share this information and engage others to help as well. Don't look back in sorrow if we fail to improve things, and wonder why you didn't lend a hand. Here's what I hope you will do:

1. Write a letter, e-mail or call your legislators. I've added legislative contact information to the Faculty Assembly website (<http://blackboard.unc.edu>) but you can find it directly on the General Assembly's website (<http://www.ncleg.net>). Also write to House leaders: Speaker Joe Hackney (Orange), Rep. Mickey Michaux (Durham), Rep. Rick Glazier (Cumberland), Rep. Jim Crawford (Granville/Vance), Rep. Marian McLawhorn (Pitt), Rep. Ray Rapp (Haywood, Madison, Yancey). I'm attaching several samples, including one of my own that I'm still refining but will send out broadly tonight or tomorrow. Get others to do the same. It matters! Please send me any responses you receive.
2. Start a campus petition and get many others to sign it. I've attached a sample developed by colleagues at NCSU. I am asking each Faculty Assembly delegation to let me know who on their campus is coordinating that effort.
3. Join us in going to Raleigh to talk with legislators next week on Tuesday or Wednesday. There will be a training session at UNC General Administration (Spangler Building), Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill on Tuesday June 9 from 9-10 and again on Wednesday June 10 from 9-10. Immediately after that, we will carpool to Raleigh. No need to come for the full day if you cannot. Please e-mail me (Judith.wegner@unc.edu) if you're planning to come so we can be sure we have everyone. My cell phone is 919-9280-5608 if you need to reach me that way.

Thanks for your continuing help.

Best—Judith Wegner, UNC Faculty Assembly Chair