

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro Staff Senate Resolution 002

Approved by the Staff Senate: May 13, 2010

Approved by the Chancellor: May 13, 2010

RESOLUTION: 2010-2011 NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUDGET

Whereas, education plays a vital role in our State's future economic health and the aspirations of millions of North Carolina families; and,

Whereas, an educated and highly skilled workforce is necessary for the economic progress of the State; and,

Whereas, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro plays a leadership role in educating the people of our State and in the overall economic growth of North Carolina; and,

Whereas, continued excellence depends upon sustained, adequate funding; and,

Whereas, the Governor's proposed state budget currently recommends a reduction of 5.9% or \$154 million (a 3.9% reduction on top of the existing 2% cut) for the UNC System; and,

Whereas, the projected budget cuts are of tremendous magnitude, especially following budget cuts over the past two years; and,

Whereas, the budget cuts will limit access to higher education for many residents of our State at a time when higher education enrollments are growing; and,

Whereas, academic reputations are built slowly over many years, and once compromised cannot be easily regained; and,

Whereas, any budget cuts in excess of 2% would harm the academic core of the University and significantly reduce the quality of academic instruction and student experiences at UNCG; and,

Whereas, 75% of the state budget allocated to the UNC System supports personnel expenses making it impossible for UNCG to absorb large cuts without eliminating more jobs; and,

Whereas, UNCG's share of the proposed cuts would result in more than 80 lost positions, all affecting fundamental academic and student support, with more than half of those being faculty positions; and,

Whereas, the University of North Carolina System has already absorbed approximately \$300 million or 29% of the current state budget reversions while the University System represented only 13% of the total state budget; and,

Whereas, UNCG began this fiscal year with a \$15.4 million budget reduction, and cannot further reduce administration without endangering fiscal integrity and regulatory compliance; and,

Whereas, previous budget reversions were largely taken from administrative cuts that protected the academic core; and,

Whereas, the previous rounds of budget cuts have already resulted in increased class sizes and fewer course offerings; and,

Whereas, numerous academic programs, including those in high-demand fields such as nursing and the STEM disciplines, would be downsized; and,

Whereas, these proposed budget cuts would cause retention and graduation rates to decline resulting in students leaving the University with accumulated debt and without achieving their academic goals,

Therefore be it resolved that the Staff Senate of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro urges the State Legislature to prevent the most serious erosion in the quality of higher education in North Carolina by providing sufficient and appropriate funding for higher education; and,

Be it further resolved that the State budget include full funding for need-based financial aid to ensure access to higher education for the people of the State of North Carolina; and,

Be it further resolved that the State Legislature appropriately continue its historical commitment and attention to our State's higher education needs as envisioned in the original *Act of Incorporation (1789)* for the University of North Carolina by providing adequate higher education funding to ensure "the happiness of a rising generation, and endeavor to fit them for an honorable discharge of the social duties of life by paying attention to their education."