

**Elizabeth City State University Budget Status:  
2008-2009 Update and 2009-2010 Forecast  
Presented to Faculty and Staff by Chancellor Willie J. Gilchrist  
May 14, 2009**

At the close of another year, we have made several accomplishments that give us a reason to boast. I certainly acknowledge and celebrate those accomplishments. However, as we move forward, let me focus on my recommendations for maintaining the integrity of ECSU, the core of the mission as outlined by our founder and former leaders as well as the present vision of President Bowles, the Board of Governors, the Board of Trustees and me as your leader. I commend President Bowles for his vision and forecast regarding the present financial condition we are experiencing. More than a year ago, he advised that we should plan for at least a 7 percent decrease in funding for the 2008-2009 academic year. With your help, understanding and dedication, we were able to end the academic year on a successful note despite the financial challenge. Through this process, we increased class sizes during the second semester, placed a hiring freeze on the

additional professor we had earned, reduced travel and professional development, delayed the purchase of necessary equipment and implemented other measures that many of you may have felt in your departments. I commend you for your dedication to the university, and most of all, for your dedication to the students of ECSU. The budget reversions and budget cuts have been a shared sacrifice. All of us will share in a salary cut for the months of May and June as directed by Beverly Perdue, the Governor of North Carolina. I encourage you to focus on our many positives and our accomplishments as we simultaneously brace ourselves for another year of fiscal challenges.

There has been a great deal of speculation about the budget. Many issues remain unsolved and will likely continue that way through the legislative session, which began in February 2009 and may end in June 2009. ECSU is not alone in the current economic situation. Be assured that, I along with key university leaders, am working with General Administration on a daily basis. They hear and understand our concerns.

All universities within the UNC System will be held accountable for maintaining academic integrity and rigor to the highest level possible

while concentrating on reducing the 2009-2010 budget by 12 percent; however, we have agreed to plan for a 14 percent reduction and maybe an adjustment during the second semester, if possible. For ECSU, this represents a reduction of \$5,207,000.00 in general operating funds.

We will reduce the number of Tier II employees and possibly reorganize the academic structure of ECSU. No category will be exempt from possible cuts in order to meet our budget demands. We must continue doing more with less. We will not be an administration of whining or a university that will not meet its goals. All of us are in this together. We will again be very cautious in filling vacancies in all categories (EPA as well as SPA). I encourage all employees to continue to shut down all computers when not in use, turn off all lights when not needed and move all thermostats to 78 degrees from May to September. Prepare mentally to accept more students in each section and expect to teach at least one additional course each semester. Each associate vice chancellor and director will be asked to consider volunteering to teach one class in an area in which he or she is qualified or devote an

equivalent time span to the appropriate unit. I urge these individuals to contact their division's vice chancellor to begin this process by May 28, 2009. The vice chancellor and the appropriate unit head will determine which semester these individuals will be needed. Remember, either we make this work or more individuals will be at risk of unemployment.

Our budget reduction plan includes the hard work of faculty, chairs, deans and administrators. We have made and will continue to make difficult decisions that minimize the impact this crisis has upon the University's core mission. The support and input of faculty and staff have and will continue to help maintain the university's high standards during these reductions. The fiscal reductions will not diminish our fundamental mission or vision. While they will result in the reduction of some services, they represent an opportunity for our divisions to focus on quality, access, and affordability. These cuts will be differentially dispersed across our units and have been developed via a collaborative process within ECSU.

Finally, and most importantly, as we navigate this difficult journey in the coming months and year, we will continue to seek your input and

support. Let us devote our due diligence to handling the financial situation in which we now find ourselves. As employees of North Carolina, it is our duty to assist in making this state financially viable again.

We have achieved recognition as one of the top undergraduate institutions in the South from *US News and World Report* magazine. This accomplishment came not through an abundance of resources, but through the dedication and diligent efforts of our ECSU community, particularly that of our faculty. ECSU has a tradition of emerging stronger and better from difficult times. Let us rise once again to this challenge.