Welcome to the New Year!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and all are doing well as we begin 2012!

It has come to my attention that the staff is still feeling the effects of last summer’s budget cuts. Some campuses are still in the process of adjusting to the impact of those cuts and layoffs are still happening around the system. Please keep your campus representatives informed about what is happening in your areas, so the Staff Assembly can track how this is occurring across the system.

President Ross met with Senator Ted Stevens and SEANC President Dana Cope about the proposed Board of Governors authority on November 30th. They discussed the pros and cons of putting the University staff under the authority of the BOG. On a related subject, Vice-President of Human Resources William Fleming, gave the combined BOG Personnel & Tenure and Public Affairs committees an overview of the system’s current personnel system.

The Board of Governors met on the 12th and 13th of January and discussed at length the possibility of raising tuition. President Ross told the Board that he will bring to them a proposal that will keep any tuition increase at or below 9.6%. The BOG will vote on the tuition increase at their February meeting.

President Ross reported that all campus audits have been completed and there was only ONE finding overall. This is a direct result of the dedication and excellent work done by the staff on behalf of our University.

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine released its annual list of our nation’s 100 best values in public colleges and universities. UNC-CH topped the rankings for the 11th time in a row and also was the best value for out-of-state students. Five other UNC campuses are ranked among the top 100: UNCW at 15th, NC State at 19th, Appalachian State at 33rd, UNCSA at 41st and UNCA at 45th. Bloomberg Businessweek ranked UNCG’s evening MBA Program at the Bryan School of Business and Economics the 50th overall and the 22nd among public universities. Appalachian State leads the nation in the number of alumni who became National Board Certified teachers in 2011. Of the more than 6,200 teachers across the nation who achieved certification last year, 130 graduated from Appalachian State. Three other UNC campuses ranked in the Top 10: ECU was 2nd, UNC-CH and UNCG tied for 7th.

Each spring, the Board of Governors presents the O. Max Gardner Award to recognize the faculty member from one of the UNC campuses who is deemed to have “made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race.” In 2008, the award was given to Dr. Mike Cohen, director of the UNC Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases. Recognized as one of the world’s leading authorities on the transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS, Dr. Cohen was honored for his international leadership in advancing HIV/AIDS research, treatment and prevention around the world. Earlier this month, an HIV research study led by Dr. Cohen was named the 2011 “Breakthrough of the Year” by Science magazine, published by the American Academy for the Advancement of Science. The editors wrote that “the results have galvanized efforts to end the world’s AIDS epidemic in a way that would have been inconceivable even a year ago.”

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The Chair's Report (Continued)

The Staff Assembly's Staff Development committee is getting close to rolling out the Janet B. Royster Memorial Staff Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund was named for Janet B. Royster from UNC-TV, who passed away after a brief battle with cancer while serving as a UNC-GA delegate and as the first UNC Staff Assembly Parliamentarian. We will be sending out more information as soon as it becomes available. Our Staff Development committee plans to have this fund in place later this year. This fund is designed to help staff members who are actively taking classes with the associated expenses of continuing their education.

To the over 31,000 UNC staff, thank you and please keep up the good work that is outlined in this report that not only makes the University of North Carolina a good value, it also shows what a dedicated staff can do despite the recent hardships we have experienced!

Chuck Brink, Chair

Coming Soon...

This August, the 3rd Annual Erskine B. Bowles Staff Service Award will be awarded to a permanent, full-time staff member who has shown exemplary understanding, empathy, and devotion to mankind and whose accomplishments are consistent with the goals exemplified by Erskine B. Bowles during his tenure as UNC President and in accordance with the University's public service mission. Start thinking of great staff members that you would like to nominate and be on the lookout for more information on the nomination process in the next few months.

The Staff Assembly Congratulates Last Year's Nominees:
- Ethel Benkin (North Carolina Central University)
- Victoria Poole (North Carolina Central University)
- Terri Waller (North Carolina Central University)
- Julie Heinitsh (UNC Asheville) *2011 Award Winner*
- Raymond Carney (UNC Greensboro)
- Leslie Kamtman (UNC School of the Arts)

The 3rd Annual Staff Assembly “Have A Heart” Campaign

Winter is often the time when those around us need a little extra help to stay warm and ward off hunger. This February, the more than 31,000 staff of the UNC System can help make a significant contribution to those in need in North Carolina by contributing to the UNC Staff Assembly’s 3rd Annual “Have A Heart” Campaign.

From February 1-29, each campus will be accepting donations of canned and non-perishable food, Ziploc bags of all sizes, empty prescription bottles, plastic grocery bags and new personal hygiene items. Items collected during this month of service will be donated to food banks and charities across the state of North Carolina on February 29, 2012.

Measuring the Impact of Years Past

2010 – The inaugural UNC Staff Assembly Day of Service was an overwhelming success. The staff, faculty, and students of the UNC System responded with unprecedented generosity during our first year by collecting more than 11,500 lbs of food, 400 pairs of shoes, over $500 of toiletries & baby clothing. The drive culminated with a personal donation of $500 from former UNC System President Erskine Bowles.

2011 – Recognizing a much greater need brought on by the slumping economy across North Carolina, the “Have A Heart” campaign was expanded from a “day of service” to a “month of service” for the first time. Throughout February 2011, the staff of the UNC System gave in greater numbers and quantities than ever before and went on to benefit more than 20 local community food banks, refugees, and causes. Contributions in 2011 totaled more than 12,300 pounds of canned goods, approximately 6,500 Ziploc bags, plasticware, toiletries, over 100 coats and other clothing items, and $300 in cash donations.

Also in 2011, proceeds from each UNC campus helped contribute to the world record breaking effort of the North Carolina School of Science and Math. In a 24 hour period, the students of NCSSM collected 559,885 pounds of canned goods for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina – setting a new world record!