



UGA Staff Council
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University of Georgia

Staff Council Report to University Council



On Budgetary Issues

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General Comments

We reiterate our appreciation to Dr. Adams and his administration for their candor and openness during these challenging times. We are truly thankful for the benefits forums given by Mr. Gausvik and the Human Resources unit. They allowed us all to have a much better idea of the changes being made, the improvements in the benefits and where our choices lay as far as costs versus benefits.

We also reiterate our support of Dr. Adams' stance on trying to find all other alternatives to cancelling of pay raises and employee layoffs. In the current economic times we feel that there is no better way to show appreciation to ALL workers at UGA of their having to step up and sometimes do two or three jobs than by giving them a pay raise.

In response to the Board of Regents plans for an additional increase in health premiums, we understand the necessity. State budget issues being what they are, cuts have to be made. And to increase health insurance for all personnel in order to avoid cuts in instruction, research and service at the universities and colleges is a difficult choice for us but one staff at UGA are willing to make.

We would like to express our concern with how some of the budget cuts are being passed down to employees. There appears to be a small but disturbing trend that increases in fees and rates are being done in a regressive manner. We fear that the increases are affecting the low wage earners at the university to a much greater extent than those with higher pay. And with this fear comes a concern that the advances made in raising the salaries of the low wage earners will mean nothing. The higher percentage costs will set the university back to no virtual improvement in the income positions of the low wage earners. We ask that university administration and also the Board of Regents please take this issue into account when deciding on rate and fee increases.