



The University of Georgia

Office of the President

March 20, 2008

Fellow members of University Council:

I regret that because of commitments in Washington, I will be getting back to campus just as the Council is finishing today's work. I regret and apologize for my absence.

There are three things on which I need to update you. First, I have asked the Provost to report on the work he has led on the topic of child care at the university. We have engaged an outstanding set of consultants to assess our needs, and we have made that report available on the university website. Second, there is an item on today's agenda about the creation of a task force to consider a campus women's center. Both the Provost and I are truly open to a full discussion on both of these two issues. My major concern remains the budgetary challenge that would be required to meet these needs in the context of our institutional priorities. For me, the overwhelming goal in discussion with the Board of Regents, the General Assembly, and the Governor this year has been the need to improve salaries, given the ground we have lost in the last few years. As you know, virtually every expense at a university impacts another, and for me, this is where the rubber meets the road on the above two issues. Rest assured, however, that this administration takes the opinion of the Council very seriously and will do everything within its power to implement what the Council recommends.

Finally, tomorrow the University Cabinet will hold its March meeting, at which I will announce a response for near-term institutional actions that should address more fully our challenge in dealing with people who engage in any form of discrimination under our Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment policy, with specific attention to issues of sexual harassment. These matters have been much in the news lately and demand an institutional response. I will announce several procedural changes tomorrow and will then be available for questions, first from the media and then from any member of the university community on these matters.

I would like to thank people for the suggestions they have made to me about how to work through these concerns, and I have considered their responses very carefully in light of recent events. I would also like to thank those in the colleges, schools, and other units across campus who are engaging in discussion on these issues. This Council and this administration have worked together to solve numerous issues over the past eleven years, and I am certain we can address these and other matters appropriately as well.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Adams
President

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