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Student Impact of Budget Cuts

Submitted by Kathleen Comerford

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478-0642

9/3/2009

Question:

Why is the administration of Georgia Southern at pains to tell students that current and past future budget cuts, including faculty and staff furloughs, have no impact on students and/or instruction?

Rationale:

We must assume that since our students are attending college, they have the intelligence to understand that drastic budget cuts affect *every* aspect of the University's operation. To tell them that there is no impact is to insult them; they know that classes are larger, rarer, and costlier than a few years ago. In addition, every student and parent is a potential voter. Claiming that continuously taking away large percentages of the University's budget has no impact on instruction is in effect a statement that the University did not need a budget the size it used to be, and is therefore license for those voters to refuse any future state attempt to restore funds withdrawn from us--and to support any future attempt to cut our budgets further. What reasons do we have to pretend that all is well when it is not?

SEC Response:

Student impact of budget cuts from Kathleen Comerford on 9/3 was not in a form that actually requested information, so the Senate Executive Committee declined to send that out.

President's Response:

10/2/2009: Dr. Grube has responded to Kathleen Comerford's rfi of September 3 in the following way: "In reference to the content of the submission of September 3, one simply finds an unsubstantiated accusation aimed at an entire class. The SEC has been clear that requests for information are to be professional and collegial. They are not to be rhetorical. And, they are not to be used to make personal statements. Given these criteria, the September 3 writing is not an RFI.

If an individual has personal knowledge of the views of a specific administrator, with which the individual disagrees, then an appropriate behavior would be to arrange a time to engage in a reasonable discussion of any differences of opinion.

Finally, it should be obvious to all concerned that the reductions in budgets, the increases in tuition and fees, the furloughs, and the other measures employed over two fiscal years have significantly impacted the entire University community -- students, faculty, staff, and administrators. The University is suffering the consequences of the worst recession since the Great Depression. We anticipate better days."