



Staff Senate Meeting March 5, 2009

the Voice

The March 5, 2009 Staff Senate session included the following items:

Speakers:

Guest Speaker: President Erskine B. Bowles

Chancellor Oblinger thanked the senators and visitors for their attendance. His introductory remarks acknowledged the efforts of President Bowles as a constant champion for students, staff, and faculty of the University, noting that the President had spend the previous day downtown talking to key legislators on behalf of the University and its constituent institutions.

President Erskine Bowles thanked the Chancellor and the Staff Senate for the invitation. He noted that in his first weeks in office, he had created the UNC Staff Assembly as a way to hear ideas and advice from staff across the constituent institutions. When Chair Massengill invited him to visit NC State's Staff Senate, he readily accepted, not so much to speak as to listen to staff and to answer any questions.

President Bowles acknowledged that we are in perhaps the toughest economic climate in his life. He expressed concern that, if the General Assembly doesn't continue to fund the University in the manner it has historically, UNC will not be able to educate the workforce necessary to compete in today's knowledge-based global economy. The Governor had asked for budget scenarios for next fiscal year that represented 3, 5 and 7 percent cuts. A seven percent cut for the University system as a whole is over \$175 million. President Bowles noted that as much as 70-75% of the University's budget goes for personnel costs, and it would not be possible to accomplish a total 7% budget reduction by cutting only from the remaining 25% that represents non-personnel items.

As a result, he acknowledged that such budget cuts would almost certainly have some impact on personnel. But he was committed to doing the least damage possible to the University's academic core, and to making decisions that would allow the University to recover as quickly as possible as the economy recovers, in order to continue to be able to educate a highly skilled and capable work force for the future of the State.

President Erskine Bowles concluded his formal remarks and opened the floor to questions from the Staff.

President Bowles again thanked the group for what they do, noting that the University couldn't survive without the critical contributions of the staff.

Read more about President Bowles in the March, 2009 Minutes.

Announcement: April's Speaker: Dr. Steve Leath, Vice President for Research

Officers for the 2008-2009 Staff Senate:

Chair	Laura Massengill
Chair-elect	Steve Carlton
Vice-chair	Michelle Healey
Parliamentarian	Carrie Levow

The next Staff Senate meeting:	April 1, 2009	10:00 Walnut Room, Talley Student Center
The next Executive Committee meeting:	April 15, 2009	2405 Williams Hall

Staff Senate Contact Information:

Please remember this is your Senate and your issues and concerns are important to us. If you do not know your Senator, visit our website at: http://www.ncsu.edu/staff_senate/senators.htm . **All Staff Senate meeting are open to the public, please join us!** What can the Staff Senate do for you?