RECENT NEWS COVERAGE OF UNC CUTS

I want to make you aware there is conversation in the press about 900 administrative jobs being cut in the UNC system.  These cuts involve all campuses and include Reductions in Force (RIF) that have already been made at WCU.  Many campuses are in the RIF process at the current time.   Therefore, you may hear of current layoffs at other campuses.

As I mentioned in my opening address, the one area that I am still looking to improve is the structure of our Administration.  I am trying to see if there are ways to be more efficient in our administrative processes.

On Wednesday, the Executive Council and I took part in a conference call with the UNC system Vice President of Finance.  From the preliminary review at General Administration, it appears they concur that we have effectively managed the required cuts.  This includes the permanent reduction of $5.1 million, and the 5% reversion mandated by the Governor this year.  Therefore, to meet the current mandated reductions and reversions, we should not need to make additional position reductions.

 In keeping with our commitment to continue reviewing organizational structures and related administrative positions, we will voluntarily reduce or realign additional senior and middle management positions.  We anticipate additional budget reductions in the next fiscal year.  Currently, it appears most of these reductions can be handled through normal attrition and review of senior and middle management.

John W. Bardo

Chancellor