



The University of North Carolina

FACULTY ASSEMBLY *The elected representative body of the faculty of the sixteen campuses*

February 17, 2003

The Honorable Charles W. Albertson
North Carolina General Assembly
16 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Richard Veit
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University

North Carolina
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North Carolina
School of
the Arts

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

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North Carolina
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Dear Senator Albertson:

As chair of the University of North Carolina Faculty Assembly, I urge your support for two matters of great importance to the University's 13,000 faculty.

We strongly urge you to support a substantial pay increase for the state's employees. The University simply has to provide competitive salaries to attract and maintain outstanding faculty. As you know, we received no increase whatever this year. In the prior year we received a \$625 increment, a figure more than offset by cuts to our health-insurance benefits. In addition to damaging the university's competitiveness, low pay and shrinking benefits particularly harm our loyal staff members, many of whom now must spend as much as 40% of their take-home pay on health care.

The faculty are also distressed by the withholding of matching funds from the North Carolina Teachers and State Employees Retirement Fund (TSERS). Despite unrealistic claims to the contrary, neither current obligations nor future cost-of-living increases for retired state employees can be met without ongoing matching funds from the state. A well-planned and fully-funded retirement system is essential, both to reward the contributions of the state's loyal employees and to attract and retain outstanding teachers, university faculty, staff members, and other state employees.

The University's faculty, as well as all other employees of the state of North Carolina, request your support in these two urgent matters. We will be most grateful for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Veit
Chair, Faculty Assembly