



James E. Rogers
Chancellor

Nevada System of Higher Education

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 26, 2008

TO: NSHE Board of Regents

FROM: James E. Rogers
 Chancellor

RE: **HOPE, HOPE THERE IS HOPE**

In trying to keep you informed about the devastating effects the Governor's required budget cuts would have, our office has been somewhat between the proverbial rock and a hard place. On the one hand, we felt it essential to give you the facts as they really are: that is, if the Governor's proposed budget cuts really ever became a reality, the System would suffer permanent and irreparable damage. We knew that information would by itself cause great heartburn, not only for all the employees of the System, but even more importantly for all the students present, past and future. Knowing the extent of that heartburn, we still felt it our obligation to give you the bad news.

At the same time, in spite of the Governor's absolutely inflexible position on requiring the System to cut its budget by 14 or 16 percent, regardless of palatable financial solutions that might exist, the Chancellor's office believed there were financial solutions that could accommodate both the fiscal conservatives and liberals of the state of Nevada.

From the enclosed letters the Chancellor's office has received from Senator Raggio, Speaker Buckley, Assemblyman Arberry, and discussions that the Chancellor's office has had with numerous other legislators, the Chancellor's office believes that although the only number yet given the System as a required budget cut is 16 percent, that with perseverance and a team effort between the System and the Legislature a financial resolution can be reached. This resolution may not make any of us completely happy, but such a solution at least will prevent the dismantling of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

The System, certainly all the Regents, the System presidents and all of the employees of the System, in addition to the student bodies of each of the institutions, must continue to give the Chancellor's office ideas for creating financial resources to ensure the future of the System.

If you have suggestions, please contact the Chancellor's office.

WILLIAM J. RAGGIO

SENATOR

Washoe No. 3



MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

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August 22, 2008

Jim Rogers, Chancellor
Nevada System of Higher Education
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, Nevada 89512-1666

Dear Chancellor Rogers:

Over the past several months you have provided detailed information as to the potential impacts of budget reductions to the various entities comprising the Nevada System of Higher Education.

As one legislator, I assure you this has been and will be, extremely helpful in actions which the Legislature has taken and will have to take in the future in determining the specifics, and the level, of funding for Higher Education.

I know you are aware of the level of support to which I have been personally committed insofar as Higher Education is concerned. I assure you that I will continue to be as supportive as possible in structuring the State budget during the next Legislative session.

While new taxes or tax increases are unlikely to be considered, certainly without voter approval, in these difficult economic times, education needs at all levels will continue to be among the highest priorities.

I applaud your efforts, as well as those of the Regents and the Presidents of the various institutions, to draw the attention of the public and of the media to critical areas, courses and programs which may have to be eliminated or curtailed in the event budget cuts, as high as 14% need to be implemented.

I will appreciate the System continuing to work with the Legislature to identify areas where required budget reductions will indeed have the least impact. Again, I remain hopeful that our revenue picture will improve prior to the end of the next Session when these final decisions will be made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. J. Raggio', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William J. Raggio
Senate Majority Leader

WJR:sml

BARBARA E. BUCKLEY

District No. 8

SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

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Ways and Means

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August 20, 2008

Jim Rogers, Chancellor
Nevada System of Higher Education
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, Nevada 89512-1666

Dear Chancellor Rogers:

I want to thank you for sharing copies of the memoranda and letters from our educational institutions around the State that lay out the real life impacts to our colleges and universities if the proposed budget cuts of 14.5 percent or greater are implemented. While some people may complain about your strong and passionate defense of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), I applaud your efforts.

As Chancellor of the NSHE, you are right to be concerned about the impact of severe budget cuts on the future of Nevada's higher education institutions. You would not be doing your job if you were not vigorously defending our colleges and universities from such severe budget cuts. As a legislator and a parent, I certainly share your concerns.

Please know that I am committed to working with other legislative leaders on solutions to help the NSHE weather this budget storm. Keeping our colleges and universities strong is vital to keeping Nevada strong. A thriving and vibrant higher education system is critical to the future of our youth and to a competitive workforce and business climate. I look forward to working with you to protect our institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,

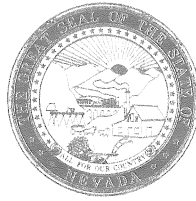
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara E. Buckley".

Barbara E. Buckley
Speaker of the Assembly

MORSE ARBERRY JR.

ASSEMBLYMAN

Clark No. 7



State of Nevada Assembly

Seventy-Fourth Session

COMMITTEES:*Chairman*

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August 22, 2008

Chancellor Rogers:

Since 1985, I have had the privilege to serve in the Nevada State Legislature. I have seen the wild swings of our economy create generous surpluses and cause painful deficits. Through it all, we have been diligent with the taxpayers' money and been thoughtful with the programs the state has supported.

Regardless of partisan opinions, Nevada's legislative leaders and past governors have always worked through these problems together. Last week, Nevada lost one of its classiest and hardest working veterans. While John Marvel and I have vastly different political philosophies, we always found a way to work together to solve the state's problems. This type of cooperation has been both a constant trait and paramount to the success of our state.

The revenue problem we now face, while severe, is not new. However, I am gravely concerned by the current approach being taken to make across the board cuts without review of a particular program's merits.

Further, we risk our economic future by not considering the financial benefits of the very programs we have chosen to fund by blindly cutting them now. Higher education is one area where there is a tangible gain to our economy by offering students access to training, technology and ultimately, degrees. The financial earning capability of an individual with a college education grows dramatically when compared with those who don't.

For over 20 years, I have served on the Ways and Means Committee and have been the Chairman since 1993. During my tenure, I have asked very tough questions of the Nevada System of Higher Education. As you and your staff well know, I am not characterized by rubber stamping budget requests. We demand efficiency and accountability. We spend the entire legislative session reviewing requests for taxpayer money line by line. It is through this rigorous scrutiny that we have gained bipartisan and virtually unanimous support for the expenditures made in higher education. Through this process we have created some outstanding programs that provide benefit to all of Nevada's citizens.

At last week's IFC meeting, I lamented the decisions that were made regarding budget cuts. These cuts were made with too little deliberation. To assign an "average" number in where we cut budgets not only disregards the bipartisan efforts that were put into a particular program, but it flies in the very face of "fiscal conservatism". Just at NSHE alone, how many programs have we created where return on investment, human need and consistent review to ensure the objectives are being met were the standards of determining what we do and don't fund? How do we pick a number out of the air to cut these types of services?

Jim, for the last several months, you have provided great detail and insight as to the impacts these cuts will have on higher education with your weekly memos. By joining forces with the superintendents of the two largest school districts, you have shown that education is a broad state responsibility, not higher education vs. K-12. Not only should these memos be part of the discussion about our budget future, but we should ask for more from you and other state agencies who provide services and value to Nevadans all across the state. Mindless and random percentages as a basis for cuts should not dictate this discussion.

In what will be my final legislative session, I do not intend to stand idly by and decimate decades of bipartisan work. We must be honest with the citizens of Nevada in showing the value that has been created, and the value that will be lost with these cuts. I ask that you continue to provide the information you have been. I also ask that you continue to respond to our questions openly, honestly and expeditiously.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Morse Arberry, Jr.', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Morse Arberry, Jr.