As I'm sure you're aware, the North Carolina General Assembly recently gave final approval to the state budget for fiscal year 2010-2011, and Gov. Beverly Perdue signed the budget bill into law on June 30.

Not knowing how drastic the cuts in state funding would be in order to attempt to make up for the state's $800 million deficit, Facilities Services, like the rest of the University, began proactively planning for cuts in state funding at the five percent level as directed by the chancellor this past December. Facilities Services is responsible for maintaining and operating campus facilities and grounds through services that include building repair and maintenance, minor renovations and construction, grounds services, housekeeping, waste reduction and recycling, energy management and mail services.

Actual cuts to the UNC system for the 2010-2011 fiscal year in the recently passed budget total $70 million to the system's operating budget. Facilities Services has received instructions from University Administration to permanently reduce our state appropriated budget by five percent - a net reduction of $1.5 million to our operating and personnel budgets.

Knowing that difficult decisions about our operations would likely have to be made, Facilities Services developed several workforce and service level changes to allow us to meet our budget reductions while keeping impacts to our employees and to services to campus customers to a minimum. Based on the amount of the reduction and instructions we received from University administration, we do not anticipate layoff of any permanent positions at this time. Some specifics include:

- Expansion of the second shift preventive maintenance operations to reduce overtime hours
- Reductions in Grounds service levels
- Implementation of materials management improvements
- Reduction in Housekeeping service levels in offices from two days to one day per week; in laboratories from five days to four days per week; and in classrooms from five days to four days per week.

As always, Facilities Services remains committed to providing the highest-quality services to you in spite of the budget reductions and the recent economic hardships.

If you feel you are experiencing any major disruptions due to these adjustments within Facilities Services, please feel free to contact me at 962-0761 or by e-mail at van.dobson@fac.unc.edu.

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