UNC President Tom Ross today issued the following statement on the House budget recommended for FY 2011-13:

“The budget approved today by the House of Representatives would inflict real and lasting damage to the academic quality and reputation of the University of North Carolina. We are thankful that House leaders provided the University some flexibility in determining how to apply and manage mandated cuts. That said, no amount of flexibility could offset the impact of permanent net cuts totaling nearly $491 million (17.7%). We are particularly concerned that even deeper cuts in the pool of need-based aid are now being proposed. That is a tremendous setback, given that 60% of our in-state undergraduates depend on need-based financial aid. This loss of funding would reduce the number of eligible students who could receive need-based aid by more than 5,500, and middle-class students would be hit particularly hard. As the budget process moves forward, we will continue to work with legislative leaders to lessen cuts to the University and increase the pool of funding for need-based aid.”