

JIM GIBBONS
Governor



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 6, 2007

Chancellor James Rogers
Nevada System of Higher Education
5550 W. Flamingo Road, Suite C-1
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

Chancellor Rogers,

I received your letter of April 4, 2007. I was sorry to see that the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) was the only state entity that refused to make any meaningful attempt to reduce its budget in order to meet a forecasted decrease in general fund revenues.

As you are well aware, the NSHE currently has 8,000 fewer students than had been projected for the current budget. Despite this dramatic decrease in enrollment, I still recommended a 13.3% increase in NSHE's budget from the last biennium. I also increased the NSHE funding formula, allowing for even more general fund revenues to flow to NSHE. Further, I have preserved enhancement funding for the Health Sciences Center. I originally devoted \$110,000,000 to the Center, and have only requested \$15,750,000 in cuts.

Education is, and always has been, one of my highest priorities.

Regardless, the fact of the matter is that the economic forecast for the upcoming biennium is simply not as robust as what was originally anticipated in November of 2006. The reality is that each of us must take meaningful and responsible steps to address this projected revenue decrease, while at the same time preserving the NSHE. Sending inflammatory letters accomplishes neither task.

Every other state agency, including the Supreme Court, the Legislature and the constitutional offices—even my own—have made meaningful cuts in their budgets. I trust that you will agree with me that the NSHE, like all other state entities, is not immune from fluctuations in general fund revenues.

I look forward to our meeting next week, and am hopeful that you will be able to provide some realistic and responsible reductions to the NSHE budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Gibbons".

Jim Gibbons
Governor

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