

**Nevada System of Higher Education**  
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December 10, 2007

Governor Jim Gibbons  
State Capitol  
Carson City, NV

Dear Governor Gibbons:

I want to thank you for meeting with Mike Wixom and me. The meeting was cordial and positive and I thought we took a great step forward. I was even more pleased to watch your interview on Wednesday, December 5, with Jeff Gillan on Las Vegas One where you indicated that "no decisions have been made on budget cuts" and that you viewed the tax shortfall as a "short term problem."

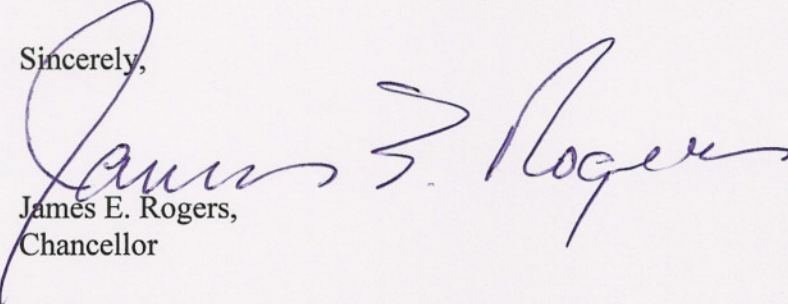
I was somewhat confused by the report about the meeting the next day, Thursday, December 6, between our respective staffs. I was surprised to hear that most, if not all of the one shot and capital items that you, Mike Wixom and I agreed would be "on the table" had been taken "off the table" by your staff. Your staff also indicated that a final decision would be made on the amount of the cuts "with or without our input" and that the "spigot would be turned off January 1, 2008." However, the System was invited to submit arguments on why it could not absorb a cut of 8%. If all the above have been taken "off the table" our options and arguments are severely restricted.

If that is in fact the message, then the System needs to know with certainty the amount which you, as Governor, will order be cut from the System budget and the date upon which the spigot will be turned off. The system knows the ultimate decision is the Governor's and his alone, but it was our impression at this juncture that "everything was still on the table" and we would work to find solutions other than cutting the Nevada System of Higher Education's System budget, or, at the very least, minimize such cuts.

If everything is not on the table and the implementation date of your order is soon to be made without the System being given reasonable notice so that it can cancel programs, terminate part-time faculty and employees and implement the reductions which were described in the 40 page memo previously sent to you on December 7, 2007, then the ongoing operation of the System will be total chaos. Under no circumstances could the System consider the funding reductions and implement them with less than 30 days notice. If January 1 is the "decision date" then the System would respectfully request that it have until February 1 to carry out your orders.

I hope we have misinterpreted the language from your staff and that you, Mike Dayton, Andrew Clinger, Mike Wixom, Dan Klaich and I can meet very soon to get these talks back on the right track to prevent irreparable damage to the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Sincerely,

  
James E. Rogers,  
Chancellor

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attachments