



**BOARD OF REGENTS OF
THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA**

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Dear University System of Georgia Student:

As each of you is aware, the nation and Georgia are undergoing challenging economic conditions. Here in Georgia, state revenue collections are, through the end of October, down two percent over the previous year. Georgia, by its constitution, must operate a balanced budget.

In August, the Board of Regents took action to reduce current Fiscal Year 2009 operating budgets by six percent. In addition, the board approved in concept reduction plans totaling eight and ten percent. Economic indicators now make it clear that we must make a further reduction to the eight percent level.

Accordingly, the regents met today and approved two of the steps it had previously adopted in concept, back in August.

I wanted to make you personally aware of the decisions that were made that directly affect you and will be implemented in January 2009. For the spring 2009 semester, each student will pay an additional *temporary* fee in order to maintain academic quality. The fees are as follows:

- Research and some comprehensive institutions: \$100 (UGA, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Medical College of Georgia, Kennesaw State, Georgia Southern, Valdosta State, Georgia College, West Georgia, and Southern Poly)
- All other comprehensive (four-year) institutions: \$75
- Two-year institutions: \$50

At today's meeting, the board also took action on employee health insurance that will mean University System employees will be asked to pay higher costs.

These are not easy decisions. We understand the financial impact on students. But we also understand that we have a responsibility to you to provide a first-rate education, leading-edge research and committed public service. In April 2009, when the Regents set tuition for the coming year, the fee will be reviewed. At that point, we will again be in touch to make sure that you are aware.

By assessing this temporary fee during what are extraordinarily challenging budget times, we are reaching out to students and asking for your help in maintaining the academic quality you deserve. Our philosophy is keep tuition affordable, provide access and offer a quality education. Sacrificing that quality is never an option.

With regards,

Erroll B. Davis Jr.
Chancellor