

Vol. 14  
1998 SHORT SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 25, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of SBCC  
Presidents  
NCCC System Office Employees

FROM: H. Martin Lancaster

In its ninth week of impasse over the budget, the House and Senate continue to express verbal bi-partisan rancor on the floor about ending the session. Leadership from both chambers continue closed negotiations. The Senate recently accepted the House's demand for full repeal of the inheritance tax, but the House balked at conditions attached to the Senate's offer on welfare reform and charter schools.

With the state nearing the end of its fiscal first quarter with no budget revisions in place, state and local agencies are well into their program years with no approved funding levels. With pressure mounting, the House and Senate passed a measure granting teacher/state employee pay raises and state retiree cost of living increases, retroactive to July 1. Governor Hunt signed the ratified bill September 24.

We continue to plan for the next session on both policy and budget requests. Our request and strategy must be developed regardless, since it will be a matter of weeks before the 1999 session commences.

Our lobbying on this year's budget request must continue in full force. I urge you to remind legislators of our needs, explaining again the impact on your college of their failing to promptly enact a budget. Give them facts and figures. We do not want to be forgotten when the budget dispute is settled, as the decisions may be made quickly and without notice once things begin to move.

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