

Digest

► **Nov. 18, 2009**

A newsletter for North Georgia College & State University

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Enrollment hits record high at North Georgia

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The Digest is published bi-weekly by the Office of University Relations for North Georgia's faculty, staff, students and community.

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Regents approve 8 percent budget reduction plan for USG

Additional mandatory student fee approved for 2010

As state tax collections continue to decline, the University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents has approved plans to adjust the system's budget from a six percent reduction (\$135 million) to an eight percent reduction level, (\$176 million) for the current fiscal year (FY2010). The board's actions call for new reductions to the system's 35 public colleges and universities and an additional mandatory student fee.

The increase in the mandatory fee for all USG students, which will be effective for the upcoming spring 2010 semester, has been set at \$100 at research universities and six other universities, \$75 at most comprehensive universities, and \$50 at two-year and state colleges. The increase will be added to the current mandatory fee, which went into effect in January 2009. For students at North Georgia College & State University, the total new mandatory fee will be \$150.

In addition to the fee, the board approved a moratorium on student fee increases for FY 2011 and a sunset date of June 30, 2012, for the total mandatory student fee increase. The lone exception to the moratorium will be fees for public/private venture projects, such as residence halls, student-financed recreation centers and other facilities with a revenue stream or fees required under extraordinary circumstances and with significant student support.

Initially approved in concept and for planning purposes by the regents in August 2009, the eight percent reduction plan is designed to help preserve academic quality while having the least possible negative effect on students, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs Usha Ramachandran advised the board. "We are striking that delicate balance between maintaining high academic quality and preserving affordability in these very tough economic times."

While the additional student fee will generate \$24 million in FY 2010, an additional \$12 million in savings must also be realized in the budgets of the System's 35 public colleges and universities, either through additional employee furlough days, the elimination of positions, employee layoffs or other program and structural changes.

Like other institutions, North Georgia had developed an 8 percent budget reduction plan earlier this fall.

"Implementation of the budget cuts at this level means that most of our currently vacant faculty and staff positions will continue to go unfilled," said Mac McConnell, vice president for business and finance. "Additionally, we are continuing to evaluate procedural and structural changes that may increase efficiency while sharpening our focus on the university's mission."

Including continuing cuts from FY2009 of \$275 million as well as FY2010 reductions, USG officials are currently managing \$410 million in state funding cuts, which were only partially offset by \$148 million in formula funding received in FY 2010 as a result of significant increases in student enrollment.

To move from the six percent to the eight percent reduction level, the original August budget reduction plan called for no additional cuts to institutional budgets and a somewhat higher student fee, of \$150 at the research universities and six comprehensive universities, \$100 at most comprehensive universities, and \$75 at two-year and state colleges.

"When the board approved the initial concept, we were working from data we had at the time on the economy and the state budget," said Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. "Since August, the situation has evolved. While the state's budget situation has continued to decline, we were able to revise our eight percent reductions in a way that minimizes the financial burden on students as much as possible."

Ramachandran noted that the overall Fiscal Year 2010 reductions spread the impact among faculty and staff, campus operations and students in a very balanced manner. "Approximately 86 percent, or \$152 million of the reductions are being borne by our institutions and employees," she said. "The student share of the cuts with the additional fee is 14 percent, or \$24 million."

For more information, see the [Spring 2010 Mandatory Fee Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Enrollment hits record high at North Georgia

Fall 2009 enrollment up 2.8 percent over last year

A record 5,652 students enrolled this fall in North Georgia College & State University, marking a 2.8 percent increase over fall 2008 enrollment.

As a whole, the University System of Georgia (USG) saw a 6.7 percent enrollment increase from fall 2008 to 2009, well above the 4.8 percent growth in enrollment from fall 2007 to fall 2008. The system's 35 public colleges and universities enrolled 301,892 students this fall, an increase of 18,914 students over fall 2008. Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. announced the latest numbers today in a report to the Board of Regents.



The numbers represent a 6.7 percent increase from fall 2008 to fall 2009. Since fall 2006, enrollment in the USG has grown 16 percent, or by 41,947 students.

"The trend lines historically are up; we have grown just above 16 percent since fall 2006," Davis said. "We have exploding demand for public higher education as individuals prepare themselves for careers requiring a college education in a changing and uncertain economy."

The USG fall 2009 Semester Enrollment Report shows enrollment gains across the board. Thirty-four USG institutions posted a record high enrollment this fall. Ten institutions had double-digit growth from fall 2008 to fall 2009, accounting for 6,072 students or 32.1 percent of the overall enrollment increase. Eight of these institutions are in either the state or two-year college sectors, which are the sectors identified in the regents' Strategic Plan to accommodate the bulk of the USG's projected enrollment growth through 2020.

The USG's six largest institutions had 41.1 percent of the enrollment growth, or 7,775 students.

- Georgia State University enrolled an additional 2,198 students for total enrollment of 30,427, a 7.8 percent increase.
- Georgia Perimeter College's enrollment grew by 1,741 students to 24,549 or 7.6 percent.
- Georgia Southern University's enrollment grew by 1,322 students to 19,086 or 7.4 percent.
- Georgia Tech enrolled 869 more students, a 4.5 percent increase to hit 20,293 students.
- Kennesaw State University's enrollment increased by 940 students to 22,389 or 4.4 percent.
- The University of Georgia had an additional 705 students, or growth of 2.1 percent for a record high of 34,885 students.

First-time freshmen enrollment continued to show gains, increasing 5.7 percent over this past fall to a total of 49,157 freshmen this fall. North Georgia enrolled 823 beginning freshmen this fall.

As demand increases for higher education, enrollment becomes more competitive, according to Jennifer Chadwick, director of undergraduate admissions. She reported that this fall's overall freshman average SAT increased by 10 points from fall 2008 and the freshman average GPA increased from 3.34 to 3.44 for same period.

Diversity in the USG continues to increase, as evidenced by the numbers in the enrollment report, and minority enrollment saw the largest percentage increase from fall 2008 to fall 2009. This was reflected also at North Georgia, where minority students increased by 141 this fall.

North Georgia also saw gains in the number of international students this fall with an additional 117 international students.

The system's full-time equivalent enrollment (FTE) for fall 2009 is 266,575, an increase of 7.9 percent over fall 2008, adding 19,407 FTE students. This increase is above the overall enrollment increase of 6.7 percent and is a record high for the University System of Georgia.

North Georgia saw an FTE enrollment increase of 3.9 percent, from 4,847 to 5,036, from fall 2008 to 2009. The increase in FTE enrollment indicates that more students are taking additional hours of courses, compared to students in fall 2008.

If attendance at this fall's admissions open house was any indication, the university will have similar growth increases in fall 2010, when two new residence halls will be available for students. More than 1,600 people - including prospective students and their families - attended the event in November. The next open house is scheduled for April.

The USG fall 2009 enrollment report is available [online](#).

Campus Police going green

By Adam Strzemienski

The university's Office of Public Safety is taking steps to reduce its carbon footprint, and through some recent changes has saved approximately 1,500 gallons of gasoline and prevented six tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.

Instead of having two patrol cars operating at the same time, officers are using eco-friendly transportation to supplement their patrol operations. Officers have access to bicycles, a Segway, an ATV, and an electric car provided by the Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office. These have little to zero emissions and help cut fuel costs.

In addition to being environmentally smart, Public Safety is generating cost savings, too.

"It is important for everyone to work together to conserve energy in these hard economic times," said Police Chief Mike Stapleton.

Public Safety is taking measures in-house as well. The thermostat is normally 5 to 10 degrees above or below normal to help reduce the building's energy consumption. Personnel in the building ensure that all electronic devices are turned off or unplugged to prevent unnecessary power drain. Additionally, officers now enter reports via an electronic reporting system, which drastically reduces paper consumption.

As officers conduct building checks at night, they also look for ways to cut energy consumption. Officers turn off most of the lights in rooms and hallways and check for air conditioners or heaters that are running at higher than needed levels. In some cases, officers have found windows open on a cold day with the heat on.

Take note...

Parking deck changes

Beginning Monday, Nov. 30, the entrance gates to the parking deck on Chestatee Street will be kept lowered at all times due to safety concerns. A number of near misses have been reported because of vehicles entering the open gates at high speeds. North Georgia students with access to the deck will need to swipe their Saints Card ID in order to open the gates. Please adjust your arrival schedule to allow time for swiping your card. Only non-resident students are admitted to the deck during normal business hours. All valid student IDs may open the gates during the evening and on weekends. Faculty, staff and community members with Rec Center access may open the gates during evenings and weekends, as well. If you have not received your new Saints Card ID or if you have any problems with your card, please come by the Saints Card office located beside the Canteen, in room 217 of the Hoag Student Center.

Faculty and Staff Socials for Spring 2010

The dates for the socials next semester have been arranged by Mark Howarth and will be held at the Alumni House on Jan. 27, Feb. 24, March 31 and April 21. If you have not attended a social before, please consider coming and bring a colleague with you. This is an opportunity to make new friends, strengthen communication and build community with your fellow colleagues.

Mountain Laurels magazine seeks student editors for spring 2010

North Georgia's literary magazine, Mountain Laurels, is seeking student editors for the upcoming spring semester. All majors are welcome and no experience is necessary.

Students will:

- gain experience in the publishing process
- collect and evaluate submissions
- learn publishing software Adobe InDesign
- help design the magazine's layout
- proof and collecting the magazines from the printer
- distribute magazines to the students, faculty, and staff
- arrange a presentation session for the artists on Honors Day

To apply, students should e-mail Dr. Amy Childers Mansfield at achilders@ngcsu.edu. Please include your name, major, e-mail address and phone numbers, plus a brief summary stating your interest in editing and/or your editing experience. The application deadline is Dec. 10.

Choral ensembles present fall concerts

North Georgia's choral ensembles

- NGCSU Singers, Le Belle Voci, and Patriot Choir – will present their fall concerts at Dahlonega Baptist Church on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 8 p.m. and at Cleveland First Presbyterian Church on Monday, Nov. 23 at 8 p.m.

The choirs are directed by Dr. John Broman and accompanied by Mary Beth Hutcheson.

The Cleveland program is free; however, tickets will be required for the Dahlonega presentation (free for all North Georgia faculty, staff, and students; \$5 for adults and \$2 for students and children). For more information, contact Broman at 706-864-1431 or jbroman@ngcsu.edu.



Sustainability Corner

Did You Know???

North Georgia College and State University recycles all expended fluorescent light tubes/bulbs.

Sustainability Tip

Your phone and iPod chargers continue to draw a small amount of power when plugged in even if they are not charging your devices. Un-plug them when not in use.

Campus in Action

Dr. Barry D. Friedman, professor of political science, presented a paper entitled "State-Government Labor Policies (Such as 'Right to Work') that Attract Relocating Businesses" at the annual meeting of the Association for Global Business in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on Nov. 13.

Dr. Timothy May, head of history and philosophy department, published a chapter, "Nomads Triumphant: Mongols, Mamluks, and the Later Crusades 1250-1400" in *The Medieval World at War* edited by Matthew Bennett. London: Thames & Hudson, 2009.

Congratulations to **Drs. Ryan Shanks, Nancy Dalman, Irene Kokkala, and Steve Lloyd**, along with their students for winning five Tri-Beta grant awards totaling more than \$1,900. These awards benefit undergraduate research at North Georgia and provide national acknowledgment of their good work.

North Georgia faculty and staff are invited to submit news of professional accomplishments for the Campus in Action section to digest@ngcsu.edu.