

Dear friends of Appalachian and public higher education:

I am sure that you share my view that the report yesterday (covered by Jane Stancill in the News and Observer) that the Board of Governors has given very sizable pay raises to chancellors—ranging from 8% to 19%--is truly outrageous, and confirms our worst fears about the direction of higher education.

The decision shows utter contempt for faculty and staff who have not received significant raises in eight years, as well as for students who are paying higher tuition and taking out expensive loans even as the percentage of resources universities devote to instruction declines. The decision was also brazenly racist, as only the chancellors of the weakest and poorest HBCUs in the system were deemed unworthy of the Board's largesse.

This is why I invite you to protest the Board's decision and to ask that Chancellor Sheri Everts, following the example of university presidents in Kentucky and Kansas, publicly refuse the \$50,000 pay raise the Board awarded her.

We're gathering on Sanford Mall today (Tuesday) at noon. We'll be signing the petition below.

Join us. Let the campus see you have a bolder and nobler vision of public higher education than the cynics who sit on the Board of Governors.

In solidarity,

Michael

**Petition:
Chancellor Everts: Give Up Your Raise!**

We, the undersigned, believe that the University of North Carolina's Board of Governors seriously mismanaged taxpayer resources when, on Friday, Oct. 30, it approved pay raises ranging from 8% to 19% for twelve system chancellors.

Chancellors are already among the highest paid employees at their universities. According to Friday's decision, N.C. State's chancellor will receive a 13% raise (or \$70,000), giving him a base salary of \$590,000. UNC Chapel Hill's chancellor was given a hike of 9.6% (or \$50,000), bringing her base pay to \$570,000.

At Appalachian State, Chancellor Sheri Everts received a 17.54% pay raise, or nearly \$50,000. Her base salary is now \$335,000.

We, the undersigned, object to the Board of Governors' decision to give large pay raises to highly-paid administrators at a time when tuition at North Carolina's public universities has risen by 35.8% since 2008 and the state legislature has slashed public funding. Meanwhile, faculty salaries have, in recent years, remained virtually stagnant, and the university continues to hire poorly paid non-tenure track faculty to do much of its teaching.

We object to the fact that at a time when almost everybody in the UNC system is expected to pay more or earn less, the Board of Governors determined that only the wealthiest administrators deserve a raise.

We object to the fact that while the state constitution declares that the “University of North Carolina [shall], as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense,” the Board of Governors has found money to boost chancellors’ salaries, but not to make tuition affordable for all North Carolinians.

We object to the fact that the Board of Governors’ decision was suspiciously made amidst the statewide uproar surrounding the appointment to the presidency of the UNC system of a gay-bashing ideologue with little experience in higher education. A reasonable person might wonder if these pay increases were not a brazen effort to purchase the chancellors’ loyalty.

We object to the fact that public universities, founded to promote social equality, are becoming engines of inequality. Chancellor’s new salary is nearly ten times that of the \$35,000 earned by full-time non-tenure track faculty. What does this say about the value we place on education?

The chancellors’ pay increase does not *have* to happen. In 2014, Raymond Burse, the president of Kentucky State University, renounced \$90,000 of his nearly \$350,000 salary so that his university’s lowest paid workers could earn a living wage.

We ask Sheri Everts to follow Burse’s example. We know she is committed to public education. We know she care about Appalachian. We hope that she proves it by renouncing her \$50,000 pay raise and giving it to those in the Appalachian Family who need it most.