



Office of the Chancellor
P.O. Box 9374
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813

Voice: (225) 771-5020
FAX: (225) 771-5075

January 4, 2012

Members of the Southern University Family,

As we enter this new year and the second half of our academic year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work and patience as Southern University dealt with an unprecedented budget crisis. We had to make very tough decisions this year, and we will continue over the course of this academic year to face challenges as we respond to even more budget reductions announced at the end of the Fall semester. Our future depends on how we respond during these difficult times.

During this academic year, we started with a \$10.5 million budget deficit. After reviewing all options, and with input and participation from all stakeholders at the University, we found it necessary to request financial exigency in order to balance this year's budget. The Southern University Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved our request in October. After initially deferring approval of our budget, the Louisiana Board of Regents (BOR), in early December and following the Board of Supervisors approval of our request for financial exigency, approved our 2011-12 operating budget. We also were required to submit to the BOR a projected budget for 2012-13 and beyond.

The 2012-13 budget projection was prepared with further staff and faculty reductions based on an extensive academic and administrative reorganization, but with the elimination of faculty and staff furloughs. We were able to eliminate faculty and staff furloughs in our projected 2012-13 budget by restructuring the University to meet the projected revenues, based on state appropriations and enrollment. Then, in mid-December it was announced that Southern University would receive a state-mandated mid-year budget reduction of an additional \$1.6 million. We then had one week to submit to the BOR a revised 2011-12 budget. In order to meet the mid-year reduction, we were forced to move forward with personnel reductions in the Spring 2012 semester rather than the Fall 2012 semester.

In total, Southern University has had to reduce its initial 2011-12 budget by \$12.1 million. We are not alone in facing these challenges as every University in the state and across the nation is facing similar challenges. Unfortunately, our situation is exacerbated by our declining enrollment over the past several years and the lack of reserve funds available to offset shortfalls.

Yes, we do face a critical situation, but we can overcome these obstacles placed before us. We have the responsibility and opportunity to create a University that will be designed to respond to the challenges and become a model for growth. We are working extremely hard to address system inefficiencies on the campus as it relates to registration, financial aid, recruiting and admissions. I am convinced you will be seeing immediate improvements.

The academic reorganization is dramatic but will provide us with the structure we need to prepare current and future students for careers in a competitive global society. We will focus on strengthening programs of excellence, adding new degrees designed to address the needs of a international workforce, and deliver to our students a rich and rewarding academic experience. As we begin to implement these changes this semester and next academic year, I encourage your continued feedback and suggestions.

I also urge everyone in the SUBR family to accept responsibility for the future growth of this University. Recruitment and retention must be the goal of everyone on this campus. Academic instruction and administrative support must be performed with the understanding that everything we do influences those two goals.

Again, I know that these will be difficult times but together we will be part of creating a new Southern University. I will keep you updated on a regular basis throughout this semester and welcome your feedback and support.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James L. Llorens".

James L. Llorens
Chancellor, SUBR

JLL/