



**OHIO**  
UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Provost

Cutler Hall  
Athens OH 45701-2979

T: 740.593.2600  
F: 740.593.9591

To: Joe McLaughlin, Chair, Faculty Senate

From: Pam Benoit, Executive Vice President and Provost

PB

Re: Signing Statement on the "Resolution on Process to Determine Necessity of Furloughs"

Date: November 6, 2010

Thank you for forwarding the resolution on the process of determining the necessity of furloughs. As we have discussed, I remain concerned by the limitations of either signing or not signing a resolution. There are elements of the resolution that I endorse without reservation. They have been incorporated into the furlough policy. But there are aspects of the resolution that I cannot support. As a result, I am in the position of supporting a significant part of the resolution but obligated to decline to sign because I cannot embrace it in its totality.

First, the resolution recommends that the Budget Planning Council be involved in the consultation process in determining the need for a furlough. This recommendation has been incorporated into the policy that will be presented to the Board of Trustees.

Second, although not a formal part of the resolution, you communicated "it was also clear from the drift of the discussion that senators believed Budget Planning Council should also be involved in section 6: 'Consultation Regarding Furlough Implementation.' This would have been put in our resolution but we didn't want to get involved in extensive revision on the floor of the Senate." This recommendation also has been incorporated into the policy that will be presented to the Board of Trustees.

Third, the resolution recommends that the policy be amended to state that the Executive Committee of the Ohio University Board of Trustees will determine whether a furlough will be implemented after considering the President's recommendation for a furlough, along with the report from the Budget Planning Council. This language has not been incorporated into the policy. In Ohio, except in circumstances of financial exigency, university boards of trustees or their executive committees do not supersede the operational authority of university presidents. As a matter of course, the Ohio University Board of Trustees will be kept informed on discussions concerning a furlough. It is important that we not equate "financial exigency" and a significant operating budget deficit.