I know that faculty and staff have been working very hard to respond by the impending deadline for the department and program surveys required by the program review process. I also know that the Office of Planning and Assessment’s Institutional Research staff have been working diligently to explain the data and to correct them. Furthermore, the members of the unit and University program review committees have begun meeting to prepare for their work. All of this activity has been taking place at the busiest time of the year. I deeply appreciate the dedication of our faculty and staff to this process, which is so important to the future of our University.

Circumstances have changed, however, and now we are fairly certain that we will have more time than we initially thought. We have learned that the General Administration committee that will review programs system-wide for the purpose of eliminating unnecessary duplication will not begin its work until later this summer. For this reason, we no longer need to rush to the finish line and can extend the process through the end of March 2012. More details will follow, but I wanted to let the campus community know that the University Program Review Committee agrees with my decision to extend the impending deadline to May 31 for programs to respond to program and department surveys. This will also allow time for questions about the appropriateness and accuracy of the data to be addressed.

The unit-level reviews will begin after we return for the fall semester, when our minds are fresh and we face fewer competing demands. Extending the process will not only provide faculty and staff with the relief they need, but will ensure that we complete this process with the care and diligence required of such an important initiative. I remain convinced that it is in the best interest of UNCG that we make the decisions based on a thorough understanding of how programs on this campus operate. Reaching this level of understanding would be impossible without undergoing a carefully planned and inclusive process of the type in which we are engaged.

Thank you for your continued dedication to UNCG and best wishes for a successful conclusion to the 2010-11 academic year.

Linda P. Brady
Chancellor