WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has not enacted a budget for the FY 19-21 biennium; and

WHEREAS, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke has experienced unprecedented growth, currently enrolling nearly 7700 students and employing more than 300 faculty and 600 more citizens of North Carolina as staff whose mission is to educate students and serve rural Southeast North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the faculty of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke are committed to providing educational access and long-term opportunity through personalized attention to all students, many of whom are first-generation students coming from under-served regions of our state; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget included buyout for the NC Promise Program that began in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget provided funding for the 24% increase in the student body of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke stemming from significant improvements in retention and affordability; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget included funding that would allow the University of North Carolina at Pembroke the resources to hire faculty for and develop the infrastructure of the College of Health Sciences; and

WHEREAS without funding that allows the University of North Carolina at Pembroke to hire additional faculty, student progress to graduation in their chosen degree pathways will be impeded; and

WHEREAS increased student numbers without increase of funds has significantly impacted the ability to provide appropriate student support, including tutoring, supplemental instruction, and adequate professional development for those who provide these services; and

WHEREAS, having taken on additional teaching, advising, and mentoring duties to cover the larger student body, without increased pay or resources, faculty have had decreased time to offer the individualized attention necessary for the success of our students; and

WHEREAS, this increased load on faculty without increased resources is part of a larger pattern of North Carolina falling behind other public and private universities in terms of their investment in human capital, leading the UNC system to lose dedicated educators with strong ties to their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke strongly urges the state leaders to approve a budget which includes the UNC System’s ongoing priorities and salary increases for faculty and staff.