

# Clemson President Responds To Report

By [fitsnews](#) • on February 18, 2009



Proving once again that bureaucrats have incredibly thin skin (and that blogs are driving the political debate in this state), Clemson University President James Barker sent out a mass e-mail this afternoon to the entire Clemson community responding to our story from earlier today about the rampant administrative growth at his University.

A similar e-mail was reportedly fired off to state lawmakers, who are currently debating the 2009-10 state budget.

While Barker's e-mail did not specifically dispute the figures [we published](#) (all of which were taken from [an exclusive report](#) prepared by a former Clemson professor) he blasted the report as "incomplete and misleading."

"Where there has been growth in academic administration, it is primarily because we added new programs and services such as the

Academic Success Center, which has helped our students retain their LIFE scholarships and improved retention and graduation rates,” Barker says in his e-mail. “Other new programs requiring administration are Creative Inquiry and the highly successful Bridge to Clemson program. Compliance with increasing state, federal and accreditation regulations can also require additional administrative staff.”

Barker’s e-mail leaves unaddressed the growth figures for the Office of the Provost and the Office of University Advancement, but he claims that all but one of the staff additions in his office came as a result of “reorganization,” not the creation of new positions.

Over the past three years, the President’s Office, Office of the Provost and Office of University Advancement have seen their combined personnel budgets jump from \$15,258,255 to \$27,153,248 – a 77% increase.

Barker’s e-mail also fails to address misleading public statements he has made concerning Clemson’s overall budget – nor did it address why the daughter of a University Trustee working in his office has received double-digit raises in each of the past two years.

END