The Department of Sociology and Anthropology focused our discussion on prioritizing graduate education or undergraduate education and the importance of new faculty hires versus rebuilding our infrastructure.

Our faculty note that the fact that we are one of two flagship universities in the university system seems not to have been recently emphasized and we argue that this is problematic. The university system has a variety of types of colleges and universities with differing missions. Honoring these missions provides an organizational plan that is especially important during times of financial crisis.

We see CHASS and NC State’s future as dependent on graduate education as a vital part of our mission as a flagship university. However, we recognize that undergraduate education and graduate education are not inconsistent missions. Creating and maintaining strong graduate programs is a way to make a vital contribution to undergraduate education by training future faculty.

While establishing new graduate programs is important, it makes no sense to create new programs at the expense of proven existing PhD programs.

If forced to choose between hiring faculty or rebuilding our infrastructure and hiring staff, we would choose hiring faculty. The goals of a university cannot be met without faculty. At the same time, we must have IT staff and budgetary staff for faculty to function.

The CHASS faculty in the department (we also have CALS faculty) work in the area of health and well being. We agree that this emphasis should be maintained and that our work, as well as that of much of the college, is accurately described with this emphasis.