... the Chancellor has appointed a work group to explore a campus response to the recent disaster in the Indian Ocean. That disaster is another highlight of the scary times we live in. Not only do natural disasters take away lives and cause unimaginable suffering, chronic conditions of poverty cause death and suffering in many places, including parts of our own country, and armed conflicts in places such as Rwanda, the Sudan, and Iraq (to mention just a few) add to human suffering. Perhaps it will be a good thing for our educational enterprise to pause for a few moments and collectively think about these issues.

The Chancellor’s work group is scheduling a memorial program around noon on January 25. Perhaps, on that date, in our role as teachers we can create an opportunity to expose our students to many different perspectives and some diversity of thought on a single topic throughout a single day...

I suggest that each of us take five to fifteen minutes ... of class time in each of our courses on Tuesday, January 25, to talk about the disaster in the countries affected by the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami and/or other significant natural and human caused disasters facing our contemporary world, and attempt to relate our discipline and course content to these issues. 

Email from Academic Senate Chair
Measured relative to the size of the US economy, the US is the stingiest developed country in giving to poor countries. Total aid from all developed countries to all developing countries: $70 billion (25% of cost of 2nd US war on Iraq).