

Non-Appropriated Capital Improvements Project – The University of North Carolina at Wilmington

At the Board of Governors' request, the 2007 General Assembly approved a capital project – Marine Biotechnology Research Facility, \$15,000,000 – for the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. The facility would house MARBIONC (Marine Biotechnology in North Carolina) and other clients that focus on the application of marine biotechnology for health, food and energy by seeking to develop and market commercial products from various Marine Science research initiatives essential to the economic development of eastern North Carolina and the state. The project would be a partnership with UNCW's marine scientists and other public agency and private researchers. The project was approved to be financed from the marine biotechnology allocation (established by the General Assembly in 2004), leases, and overhead receipts.

In July 2009, UNCW was awarded a \$15 million matching grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for the construction of this new Marine Biotechnology facility. The grant is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (stimulus funds).

The grant has a \$1-to-\$1 matching requirement, and UNCW now requests authority to combine its previously approved \$15 million capital project authority with the \$15 million NIST grant award to construct a \$30 million facility.

It is recommended that the request of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the proposed methods of financing the Marine Biotechnology Research Facility be approved.