

Resolution Supporting Legislative Requests of the Community Colleges

At their joint meeting in February 2008, the Boards of the four education sectors in North Carolina identified many ways to work together to benefit public education in North Carolina. Later, the four Board chairs met to continue their work and determined that communications would be improved by sharing each others' legislative budget requests. Additionally, the President of the North Carolina Community College System and the President of the University of North Carolina meet jointly with their senior staff on a regular basis to work through programmatic, economic development, technology, and budget initiatives. They agree that the North Carolina Community College System and the University have several important initiatives to be advanced in the 2009 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly that will facilitate a seamless program of higher education and the successful completion of baccalaureate degrees and workforce preparation for the citizens of North Carolina.

It is recommended that the Board of Governors adopt the attached resolution and endorse and support the budget and non-budget initiatives of the North Carolina Community College System for the 2009 Session of the General Assembly. The Board of the Community College System will consider a similar resolution supporting the University's 2009 legislative agenda.

Board of Governors' Support for Community Colleges' Legislative Requests

Whereas, the State Board of Community Colleges and the University of North Carolina Board of Governors seek to establish a seamless program of higher education for the successful completion of baccalaureate degrees and workforce preparation programs for students in public, post-secondary education in the State of North Carolina; and,

Whereas, the State Board of Community Colleges seeks to establish as many cooperative relationships, educational programs, and economic development activities as possible with the University of North Carolina Board of Governors to address acute workforce shortages; and,

Whereas, the President of the North Carolina Community College System and the President of the University of North Carolina System meet jointly with their senior staffs on a regular basis to work through programmatic, economic development, technology, and budget initiatives; and,

Whereas, there are several important budget initiatives to be advanced in the 2009 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly of importance to the North Carolina Community College System that will address resource issues in compensation, equipment and technology, healthcare, technical education, customized training, and facility improvements,

Whereas, these budget initiatives include the following educational and economic development components, such as:

1. Increasing the funding of faculty and staff salaries to move toward national average salaries paid by peer institutions;
2. Supporting funding technology infrastructure and equipment resources to increase the capacity for the delivery of college academic programs to community college students, and to shorten the replacement cycle of technology and equipment from a ten-year to six-year term;
3. Weighted per capita funding for Healthcare Programs that will result in expanded capacity in critical disciplines in response to unprecedented labor market demand, and to more fully meet the needs of Associates Degree and Diploma programs in all healthcare areas, but especially for nursing programs which must meet national accreditation standards by 2010;
4. Re-establishing and strengthening of Technical Education programs in transportation, engineering, industrial and construction fields, in high-demand occupation areas, to match students with jobs; and,
5. Expanding Customized Training programs for new and expanding companies, or those seeking to re-tool to remain profitable and competitive during difficult economic times.

Whereas, the State Board of Community Colleges also has several non-budget initiatives to be advanced in the 2009 Session of the General Assembly, including the utilization of state funds for campus-based security, increasing the limits on purchasing from \$25,000 to \$50,000, increasing the state construction threshold to \$1,000,000, and shortening the administrative rule-making process,

Now, Therefore, Be It Hereby Resolved that the University of North Carolina Board of Governors endorses and supports the budget and non-budget initiatives of the North Carolina Community College System herein set forth for advancement in the 2009 Session of the General Assembly.