



The University of North Carolina

Summary of 2013-14 Proposed Policy Items

Incentivize savings practices through carry-forward reform.

Currently, state policy encourages a “use-it-or-lose-it” mentality for state agency expenditures. The University currently has the ability to carry over 2.5% of unspent state appropriated funds. We proposed increasing this to 5.0%, in order to further assist the UNC campuses to address their strategic needs. Additionally, we propose transferring administration of self-supporting programs currently in the General Fund as appropriated receipts, such as summer term instruction, continuing education, and non-credit extension instruction tuition to the Institutional Trust Funds.

Support state aid intercept to allow redirection of state appropriation to cover debt service on bonds.

The redirection of a campus’ state appropriation to cover debt service on bonds in the event that a campus isn’t able to make a scheduled debt payment would function like an insurance policy. This proposal would likely increase campus bond rating and decrease debt service payments.

Modify GS 143-64.17L to include additional UNC campuses seeking to implement energy conservation measures.

Current law allows only NCSU to implement energy conservation measures under the provision of this law. Expanding the provision to all universities would create options for all campuses to have this option to either use an ESCO or implement energy conservation projects on their own.

Support electronic commerce enabling legislation.

The proposal is to amend G.S. 116-40.22 by adding a new subsection (e): To provide for the implementation and expansion of electronic commerce infrastructure and capabilities among the various constituent institutions, allowing for the contracting with service providers specializing in the institutions of higher learning arena, primarily to allow for the mitigation of security risks associated with compliance requirements of the payment card industry standards, and to add the efficiencies, technical capabilities, uniformity, and best practices of the contemplated service providers, including the frequency of payment remittance.

Align approval limit for capital improvement project fund with the informal project limit and bonding threshold.

This proposed change to increase the capital project dollar limit to match the current informal project limit of \$500,000 and the bonding threshold of \$500,000 will enable the university to deliver informal projects in a streamlined and more expedient manner resulting in cost savings that will benefit all stakeholders.

Diversify funding options for NCSSM/Provide high school student funding to UNCSCA to cover difference between incurred costs and appropriated amounts.

The North Carolina School of Science & Math requests the opportunity to expand their offerings, while recouping costs. NCSSM would like clarify/codify their ability to impose fees to recover all costs, including overhead, for distance education and educational enrichment activities. Any surplus funds generated through these activities would be retained for the purpose of enhancing the educational mission to serve NC students. While UNC School of the Arts request the General Assembly appropriate funds to cover the difference between the incurred costs and appropriated amounts to educate the high school students they serve.

Increase Board of Governors’ authority relative to the disposition of property for a period of more than 10 years.

As opportunities arise in the increasingly competitive research marketplace, University leaders and researchers must react quickly to respond and finalize details and legal requirements to enter into professional and financial relationships with their private partners. We ask the General Statutes to be amended to expand delegation for leases to the Board of Governors for over 10 years.

Eliminate unnecessary or duplicative reporting requirements.

The University submits more than 50 reports on a monthly, quarterly, annual, or bi-annual basis to the General Assembly and various state agencies. We propose elimination of the reports that are outdated and no longer needed.

Provide for eligibility and participation in the Optional Retirement Program for SPA employees hired between August 1, 2011, and December 31, 2012.

University employees hired between these dates were not eligible to enter into the Optional Retirement Plan, which has a 5-year vesting period. Instead, they were forced to enter into the Teachers & State Employees Retirement Plan, which carried a 10-year vesting period. We propose giving the relatively small number of employees the option to opt-into the ORP. UNC Hospitals were given the ability to opt-into the ORP last year, but SPA employees at the University were not.

Modify definition of a volunteer under the TSERS six-month break in service requirement.

Currently, faculty serving on a doctoral dissertation committee compromises a student's progress by retiring before their service on the committee ends. We propose to modify the definition of bona fide volunteer under the six month break in service requirement under the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) to include any state agency, university or local school volunteer.

Clarify and simplify residency statutes.

The current residency statutes create confusion for both students and campus administrators, as various institutions come to different conclusions on occasion. We propose creating a new system, which will provide more clear guidance and centralize the residency determination decisions.

Consolidate the employment authority for all University faculty and staff under the UNC Board of Governors.

UNC currently employs approximately 47,000 individuals whose personnel policies and procedures are developed and managed by two separate systems with differing rules and regulations. One group is managed and directed by the Office of State Personnel (for positions subject to the State Personnel Act) and the other group (for faculty and other positions exempt from the Act) is under the authority of the UNC Board of Governors. This legislative proposal would enable the development of a single consolidated personnel system for UNC, administered by the Board of Governors. The General Assembly has previously enacted similar successful personnel consolidation measures for the Community College System, the UNC Healthcare System, the General Assembly, ECU Clinical Support Services, and other entities.

Modify tuition waiver benefit to allow UNC faculty and staff to take three classes per year instead of two.

Faculty and staff at UNC institutions were allowed to take three classes per year under the tuition assistance program until 2009. In that year, the law was changed to reduce the number of allowable classes under this benefit to two per year.