# University of North Carolina 2001 Federal Agenda

The following agenda was developed based on suggestions and recommendations received from the constituent campuses and affiliated organizations of the University. The general themes by which priorities are categorized are taken from the Board of Governors' Long-Range Plan. The activities and initiatives described below will be undertaken, whenever possible, in conjunction with the North Carolina Congressional delegation and the North Carolina Governor's Washington Office and, where appropriate, the relevant higher education organizations and professional societies.

### Ensure Access to Higher Education

The Board of Governors has stressed the importance of ensuring access to higher education for all qualified citizens, but especially to traditionally underrepresented segments of North Carolina's population. Toward that end, the University will strive to achieve the following goals:

- 1. Support Federal programs for student financial aid, student support services and related activities, including:
  - Increase Pell grants from current level of \$3,750 (grant assistance to low-income undergraduates; in 1998-99, almost 31,000 UNC students received close to \$61M in Pell grants.)
  - Increase Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (grant assistance to low-income undergraduates; in 1998-99, more than 9,500 UNC students received \$7.1M in SEOG funds.)
  - Increase funds for the Federal Work Study program (assistance provided to campuses to help undergrad/grad students pay for college through part-time work; in 1998-99, more than 7,000 UNC students earned more than \$7.0M in work study aid.)
  - Increase funding for the GEAR-UP and TRIO programs (GEAR-UP provides comprehensive mentoring, counseling and other services for low-income elementary and secondary school students and their families to help establish pathways to college; 3 UNC campuses (ASU, FSU and NCA&T) and the Office of the President have been awarded GEAR-UP grants in the past two years. TRIO provides education outreach and student support services to encourage disadvantaged individuals to enter and complete college.)
  - Support increases in funding for the GAANN and Javits graduate fellowship programs; change stipend calculation to merit-based (GAANN (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need) and Javits programs support graduate students in a wide range of fields; many outstanding students are unable to accept GAANN Fellowships because they do not qualify for an adequate stipend.)

## **Intellectual Capital Formation**

The Board of Governors has articulated the importance of excellence in graduate, professional and undergraduate programs to develop an educated citizenry that will enable North Carolina to flourish. A key element of that goal is to ensure that the facilities and campus environment necessary to support that educational excellence are available. Resources to accomplish the latter will be realized through both the Board's capital plan and Federal sources. Therefore, the University will work to support the following Federal initiatives:

- 1. Programs to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities, including:
  - Department of Education institutional programs (Title III of the Higher Education Act provides funds to strengthen academic programs and fundraising capabilities at institutions that serve minority and disadvantaged students.)
  - Department of Agriculture 1890 Land Grant Programs (formula funds for research and extension activities at historically black land grant institutions.)
  - Department of Agriculture Higher Education Programs (funds provided for capacity building (research, teaching and facilities) at historically black land grant institutions.)
  - Agency-based minority science and engineering opportunity programs (programs at various Federal agencies, including NASA and DoD, that support research and education capacity building at HBCU's and other minority institutions.)
- 2. Programs to support infrastructure needs at various institutions, including:
  - National Institutes of Health Extramural construction grants (funds to support construction of biomedical research facilities not located on the NIH campus.)
  - Federal/Congressional initiatives supporting the preservation of buildings at historically women's and historically black institutions (Federal programs and/or legislative initiatives that support these types of activities, which are applicable to several UNC institutions.)
  - National Science Foundation Instrumentation program (competitive grant program to support purchase of major pieces of laboratory research equipment.)
  - Department of Education Title III Institutional Development grants (funds to support capacity building at post-secondary institutions that serve minority and disadvantaged students.)

- Department of Agriculture formula funds (research and extension funds that can be used for capacity building purposes, including support for personnel and, in some cases, facilities.)
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting programs (infrastructure and facilities grants, as well as programming resources utilized by UNC-TV.)
- 3. Support initiatives to increase opportunities for international education and research, including:
  - Promote funding and initiatives that encourage international education and research opportunities for UNC students and faculty (urge increased funding for international education programs through the Department of State and the Department of Education.)
  - Promote increased opportunities for international collaboration (support Federal initiatives that would encourage and facilitate international research and educational collaboration among UNC institutions, NC organizations and international partners in various fields and disciplines.)

#### K-16 Education

The Board of Governors has placed a great deal of emphasis on the University's role in proposing and supporting initiatives that serve the needs of the State's public schools. These initiatives include the development of innovative teacher preparation programs, professional development initiatives, and programs, curriculum and materials to ensure the continuous improvement in the academic achievement of North Carolina's students. The University will seek to capitalize on Federal initiatives on behalf of the various campuses engaged in these types of innovative activities, including:

- Working with members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation to include specific programmatic elements in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, particularly in the areas of teacher training and development, and integration of technology into the classroom.
- 2. Identifying and pursuing opportunities with on-going and emerging programs funded by the Department of Education, National Science Foundation and other agencies that support innovative university/K-12 partnerships in teacher recruitment/preparation/training and the use of information technologies in education.

## Creation and Transfer of Knowledge

The Board of Governors' Long Range Plan emphasizes the crucial role the University plays in expanding the frontiers of knowledge through scholarship and research, and stimulating economic development in North Carolina through research, technology transfer and public service activities. The Federal government plays a key role in supporting many of these efforts across the University. Therefore, the University will place particular emphasis on maximizing the Federal resources available to funds these various activities, including:

- 1. Increasing support for university-based research, scholarship, public service and outreach at various Federal agencies, including:
  - National Institutes of Health (UNC institutions received more than \$180M in 1998-99)
  - Department of Education (UNC institutions received more than \$44M in 1998-99)
  - National Science Foundation
  - (UNC institutions received almost \$33M in 1998-99)
  - Department of Defense (UNC institutions received more than \$29M in 1998-99)
  - Environmental Protection Agency (UNC institutions received almost \$14M in 1998-99)
  - Department of Agriculture (UNC institutions received almost \$11M in 1998-99)
  - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (UNC institutions received more than \$8M in 1998-99)
  - Department of Energy (UNC institutions received almost \$8M in 1998-99)
  - Department of Commerce (UNC institutions received more than \$7.5M in 1998-99)
  - Department of Transportation (UNC institutions received almost \$1.5M in 1998-99)
  - Corporation for Public Broadcasting (UNC-TV received almost \$1.5M in 1998-99)
  - National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities (UNC institutions received almost \$1.2M in 1998-99)

- 2. Participating in the development of Federal legislation and policies that affect higher education and university-based research.
- 3. Seeking to capitalize on innovative initiatives being developed, or currently underway, across the various UNC campuses, including:
  - Public service and economic development: identify Federal programs that will assist individual campuses in their efforts to implement economic development and other types of public service initiatives to serve the communities in those regions of the state.
  - North Carolina Institute for Health and Safety in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: secure additional Federal funding for this important inter-institutional initiative designed to aid workers in the farming, fishing and forestry industries.
  - Biotechnology/genomics: work in collaboration with other statewide initiatives, including the North Carolina Genomics and Bioinformatics Consortium, to ensure that North Carolina maintains a national leadership role in biotechnology and genomics.
  - Environment and marine sciences: identify and secure Federal funds to support multi-institutional marine science research, education and outreach programs.

## **Transformation and Change**

The Board of Governors seeks to use the power of information technology and more effective educational, administrative, and business practices to enable the university to respond to the competitive global environment of the  $21^{st}$  century. The Federal government is serving as a catalyst to the many efforts in higher education to harness the power of information technology. Accordingly, the University will seek to take advantage of those various opportunities, including:

- Address the "digital divide" in North Carolina (Assist the various campuses in their efforts to address the "digital divide" in information technology across the State.)
- Integrate information technology into the learning environment (Identify Federal resources to enable various campuses to improve access to and integration of IT into their institutions.)