



**UNC Tomorrow Listening  
Public Input Charlotte  
Mecklenburg Government  
2007, 9:00 am**

**Forum Summary of  
(Charlotte-  
Center) October 3,**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Main themes expressed by the public:

- K-12 – More and better teachers, more math and science teachers, increase programs for lateral entry teachers, provide methods training and content-based professional development, expand Teaching Fellows program, do more to recruit students into teaching profession, increase training and professional development for administrators, become more involved in K-12 beyond just graduating teaching students
- Health care – More nurses, doctors, and health care providers, expand translational research, establish medical school in Charlotte, graduate more nursing professors
- Demographics changes – Respond to the increasing Hispanic population and improve educational attainment of Hispanic students
- Minority students (especially African American males) – Increase their educational attainment and motivate them to succeed academically
- Collaboration – Increase partnerships with business and community organizations, become more involved in the community as a whole; strengthen outreach to make campus resources better known and available to the community; develop clear branding of UNC-Charlotte (will help with business recruitment)
- Facilitate community dialogue on important issues, such as social justice
- Maintain accessibility and affordability of higher education
- Develop “seamless” relationship with community colleges – Strengthen articulation agreement to facilitate student transfers
- Student skills – Educate students with better soft skills such as creativity, original thinking, problem solving, communication (oral and written), and global awareness; students also need stronger math skills; establish more internships for students
- Foster development of arts and cultural programs
- Provide more continuing education for adult learners to enhance the intellectual capital of the region



- Campus programs - Enhance research level programs at UNC-Charlotte, including bioinformatics, nanotechnology, and photonics; plan for significant student enrollment growth
- Environment – Provide leadership both in researching and developing future energy sources as well as campus development (sustainability)

Detailed Summary on following pages compiled by:  
Dr. Deborah Bosley UNC Tomorrow Scholars Council

**UNC Public Listening Forum: Charlotte, NC**  
**October 3, 2007**

**K-12 Education Issues:**

**Themes:** *Principals Executive Program, collaborate with UNC Charlotte to build content, change pedagogy to respond to diverse populations, create more teachers in STEM, develop creative and critical thinking skills, model and support new initiatives (Yale, Teaching Fellows, Easley's Early College Initiative, the Bryant Foundation), recruit more teachers*

- Public Education Tomorrow: 1,369 new teachers; shortage in ESL, math, science teachers; 11,000 needed each year; UNC system 3,000 produced every year. Imports 8,000 every year. 50% of principals have 3 or fewer years. Serious pipeline challenge. Hard to pull teachers from classroom to principals:
  - Faculty members from UNC arts & sciences disciplines should be helping K-12 teachers to master the content to teach their students.
- Encourage UNC system schools of education to train teachers to fit the local community context and demographic realities. It is vitally important that teachers be better trained to understand and value diversity.
- Analyze and evaluate the role of Principals Executive Program (PEP) on school performance. Re-engineer the mission of PEP to be the go to place for research-based best practices in K-12 education and establish regional outposts or satellites throughout the state. Regional outposts for PEP to customize professional development. Alignment with standards (PEP). Principal's Executive Program should be expanded and their programs should be customized to fit different kinds of schools—PEP should be the go-to site for school administrators to find out about best-practice research
- If you think about an endowment funding a model professional program for teachers, and have rigorous tests, and one they have finished this program, you pay them 60-80k per year because we know the marketplace is competing.
- Strengthen lateral entry teaching programs through online course offerings and/or satellite campus course offerings.
- UNC system should advocate for a greater emphasis on creativity in K-12 curriculum—equally as important as critical thinking skills. Greater emphasis on the arts and artistic entrepreneurship is one way to accomplish this.
- Expand existing and develop new programs that enable K-12 students to learn more about college. Such programs should be sensitive to the diverse cultural backgrounds of the school age population.
- UNC System must do a better job to connect with Hispanic youth in early childhood.

- Re-do the K-12 science and math curriculum so youth are better able to make connections between what they are taught and the real world.
- Training of teachers is a major problem in this area where we produce less than half the number of teachers we need. We need to address this problem.
- Assist in finding teachers in science and math. Within five years 90% of engineers and scientists may live in Asia. How our students perform in math and science indicates that if students below reading, math, and science only 12% of likelihood will go to college. U.S. trailing in math and science. Interest students in elementary school. Fewer than 1% degrees in Science. Asian countries are growing scientists at much greater rate. 3 of graduates in physics.
- Teacher shortage is critical; we need more teachers. Update programs to help them cope with what they will face in the classroom. How will you be able to populate and educate every person in the community? Help us change.
- Every NC citizen should be recruiter for teachers
- Expand opportunities for business/educators to grapple with this issue (State Board of Ed – John Tate – initiative)
- UNC system and K-12 must partner to lead school reform; therefore, partner and take over school reform in our state
- Replicate Yale Teaching Initiative
- Employ part-time who are the best to teach in the schools; customize educational practice to the community in which it resides (UNCC and ESL)
- There is a critical vacuum in the STEM teaching areas.
- NC imports 8,500 teachers a year. We need to attract and retain more teachers.
- Because of the limited teaching corps, there is a limited pool to draw upon for k-12 administrators.
- NC needs to increase the Teaching Fellows Program.
- UNC schools should consider customizing teaching preparation for specific types of schools. The needs of urban and rural schools are different.
- The UNC system needs to work on lateral entry programs for professionals with college degrees who want to teach. This would ease the teacher crisis.
- We need to focus on training teachers how to use technology. Currently, their students are more tech savvy than they are. They would be more effective teachers if they could communicate with their students in the way students communicate among themselves.

- We need to treat teachers like the professionals that they are. They need to be rigorously trained and compensated accordingly much like lawyers and doctors.
- UNC should be a source of new ways to help teachers engage their students. Develop pedagogies that speak to active learning and to the diverse nature of our students.
- UNC should increase number of Teaching Fellows
- UNC colleges of ed should develop more professional development school partnerships
- UNC faculty members should spend more time in the public schools; faculty members in education should work as teachers and administrators to keep up with what is going on in the real world
- UNC should make it easier for K-12 students and teachers to spend time on their campuses, developing a statewide program to educate 8<sup>th</sup> graders about the university (there are models of such programs in New York and Massachusetts)
- UNC should help schools develop more teacher cadet programs in high schools
- UNC should help institute Gov. Easley's early college initiative

## **Higher Education Issues**

**Themes:** *Access for immigrant and Hispanic h.s. graduates, address environmental issues through community/university collaboration, bridge divide between academia and business, increase cultural awareness in students and faculty, lack of retention because of funding, 'real world' experience through internships, improve teacher education, advantages/disadvantages of "corporatization" of universities, develop transferable skills (communication, thinking, creativity, innovation, etc.), make transferring from CC easier and make articulation agreements consistent from university to university, equity, build "soft skills" throughout the curriculum*

### **EQUITY ISSUES**

- Affordable education for first generation college students is essential.
- Major corporations look for diverse communities. Higher education institutions need to address the needs of diverse populations.
- The number of disabled students is increasing at UNCC and the school needs to standardize physical access to all campus facilities. The definition of diversity needs to include disabled students as a group.

- The funding formula used by the UNC General Administration is unfair to UNCC. It punishes schools with younger alumni bases that, therefore, do not have large endowments.
- Thirty percent of the UNCC student body works full-time and 40% work part-time. This has a negative impact on retention. The funding formula for allocating financial aid dollars is 30 years old and does not take into account the new type of working student.
- The UNC administration needs to go on record in support of the Dream (?) Act to assist Latino students' access to higher education
- The UNC system needs to take the lead in educating the people of the state that we are all part of the same community regardless of our race, economic status, or ethnicity.
- Retention of AA students at UNCG is higher than for whites. Find out what they are doing, and bottle it and share it around.

### **OTHER HIGHER ED ISSUES**

- Find a way to better teach students the soft skills that are critical to their success
- More coordination needed between university and local businesses, children's issues, and the aging population
- More system wide approaches to distance education needed
- University should have a 1-stop center for engagement with community
- University assistance for addressing labor shortage as boomers retire
- Make engagement in community a requirement of faculty and students
- Make university education more accessible
- Advertise existing university services better
- Establish a statewide task force, with major community and higher education groups to grapple with teacher education issues.
- Develop an education model that will enable Hispanic youth to access degree programs closer to their homes.
- Integrate “critical thinking” and “soft” skills training in the University curriculum.
- Facilitate greater access to UNC system schools by eliminating bureaucracy
- Create a more balanced incentive and reward structure for university faculty where teaching and service are equally as important as research.

- Open the doors of the UNC system schools so immigrants—particularly undocumented high school graduates who qualify for admission—can go to college. Support the Dream Act.
- Treat aspiring teachers like professionals and give them rigorous training.
- Devise education strategies and programs for bringing those ensconced in the criminal justice system back into the economic mainstream.
- Develop, fine tune, or expand articulation agreements between UNC system schools and community colleges, with an eye toward creating a seamless education system. Such agreements are especially needed in fields where there will be strong demand for workers in the years ahead (e.g., nursing, pharmacy, and allied health fields).
- Develop more internship programs and other initiatives to give university students more real world experiences.
- Assume a leadership role in addressing the state’s enormous environmental challenges. Lead by example by promoting the use of green and energy efficient building designs, renewable energy, waste reduction, and recycling.
- Find ways and resources to connect international college students with K-12 education system—as a strategy to foster greater international understanding.
- Bridge the divide between the academic world and the business community. Do a better job of integrating the University system with business and industry. NC State College of Textiles cited as a benchmark for this type of integration.
- Produce more science and math teachers for all levels of K-12 education.
- Develop ways to give freshmen students a basic education in cultural sensitivity and diversity. Students need to know how the rest of the world functions.
- Devise strategies and programs to address the high dropout rate at the end of the first year problem in the UNC System. The “issue” is not lack of ability, but, rather, lack of money.
- Integrate environmental aware into curriculum. Make environmental sustainability a major priority in the UNC system by enacting policies that adhere to the fundamental principles of sustainability; by integrating environmental awareness and literacy in the general education curriculum; and by encouraging and advocating for more research on global warming, biodiversity, and sustainable business practices.
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• Integrate university system with business and industry. NC State’s college of textiles is a great example of the dynamics between faculty and the community; change management; generally huge divide between academic and business world. We need to bridge that gap. Recognize those people who are doing it. Break down barriers in university systems; bureaucracies and turf. They’ve been comfortable in academic environment and you have to make them uncomfortable. So many resources in a university system, but the business

world is not comfortable with the academic world, either. Neither entity likes change managements and we've got to bridge those gaps.

- Increasing 'corporatization' of the university is a problem. Instead of breaking down barriers with corporate world and universities, has to figure out the right barriers. For example, new institute for environment is one of the primary polluters. Make those very clear distinctions. What money are you going to take. How can university stand up if funding depends on their ...
- Critical thinking: We need thousands of more social justice organizers, more vigorous debate on the issues that face us. Is the university fostering that?
- UNCC play greater role in advancing artistic contributions through new College of Arts and Architecture. Tremendous opportunity for artistic contributions to rise. MFA program to train and attract artists and retain them here. Charlotte wants to be a creative community but lacks the amenities to attract the artists. UNCC should be one of those primary places.
- UNCC should expand its partners in town. New facility could provide. Explore partnerships beyond the usual suspects. Expand and deepen relationships. New facility could become center point where new intersections can happen.
- Resolve issues of inconsistency in transfer credits, inability of students to transfer in midyear and develop programs for transfer students (as we do for freshmen)
- Specific articulation agreements in healthcare (have to leave NC because of problems of transfers); formal agreement with UNCC, but agreements in other universities helpful.
- Collaboration with NSF grant project to encourage minority males and women to take more science courses.
- Welcome UNCC to our university center to provide four-year courses for those who can't travel and important to provide education to those families who want children to stay near home
- Lateral entry systems for teachers through closer partnership; not every university offers the courses that are required. Develop online methods courses and offer those to our students
- Continue to work with Small Business Owners; Comm. Colleges and UNCC working to provide more help to small businesses.
- UNC needs to continue to ease transfer from CCs, especially in areas of high need such as nursing, teaching (online methods courses for lateral entry teachers in areas where cohorts or whole classes are not practical)—there should be an orientation program especially for CC transfers at each campus

## 5. Medical informatics efficiency

- UNC should be more involved in translational research with partnerships between academic scientists and clinicians especially in areas such as preventative medicine, aging
- Keep in mind the difference between training and education; UNC should not be promising the public preparation for specific jobs that may not exist in the future—neither students nor universities should be locked into programs that cannot be responsive to a changing world
- Expand opportunity for K-12 education, higher education, and business to work together on teacher challenges and school reform more generally in the state.
- Higher ed has become a screening system for business
- Forge collaborations between regional medical centers, community colleges, private colleges, and UNC System schools
- fewer students should be majoring in business, UNC should encourage other majors because students in business are just doing it to get it on a resume, but they are really interested or could be more interested in other things—would help retention problem to address the health care
- Decrease the debt load on students—college needs to be more affordable
- Devise and invest in faculty members with a charge to help NC's economic base
- Hire faculty members with a charge to help NC's economic base translational research and teaching, to deliver health care more effectively.
- Infuse delivery health care with ethical issues
- Reward faculty who work with businesses and non-profits, and close the gap between the academy and the real world
- Pursue more joint ventures between centers of excellence on UNC system campuses and the business community. Such alliances are viewed as vital to the future viability to NC communities. The proposed Center for Quantitative Finance--a joint venture between the Belk College of Business at UNCC and Wachovia—was cited as an example of the types of joint ventures that should be pursued.
- Increase PhD programs with accompanying research efforts
- UNC should support the motor sports engineering initiatives and recognize it as sophisticated work, with transferable skills, concepts and technologies—a la NASA
- UNC should do more about teaching risk management strategies, e.g., through courses in public policy programs or as part of curriculum in Inst. Of Government

## Health Issues Themes: *collaborative research with hospitals, etc., more nurses, change educational strategies, use technology to advantage of healthcare, translational research*

- Establish leadership academies to support the development of the next generation of leaders in the state. Vitaly increases in rates of undiagnosed diseases will continue. 23% increase in emergency room visits. Double digit growth in patient census. Medical knowledge will do future emergency room visits. How do we attract more physicians and healthcare providers? How do we in education and healthcare provide?
- University must leader in addressing the most pressing societal problems. Give professors the academic freedom to address such issues and reward them for working with CCI to analyze database and use AI networks to create decision algorithms.
- 1. Cross-fertilization between UNC system
- 2. Integration of technology and knowledge critical to provide correct treatment: such issues and reward them for doing this work well.
- 3. Leverage the explosion in medical information and growth in academics and provide resources for translational research
- 3. Nurture the collaboration and cross-fertilization between healthcare and academics and provide resources for translational research
- 4. Invest in strategies to deliver healthcare more effectively
- 4. Invest in strategies to deliver healthcare more effectively curriculum to better prepare tomorrow's physicians.
- Devise and/or expand continuing education programs for nursing faculty. Raise scholarship and fellowship dollars to finance such programs.
- 23% increase in the number of emergency room visits nationally in the recent past.

## **Diversity and Globalization Issues**

- Support the Dream Act for non-citizens, immigrant students. Financial access to the universities. For those who are not documented and for those who don't have the

- resources. Give freshman information about different cultures. You need to know how the rest of the world functions; promote bilingualism; UNC needs to find way to help high school students whose parents do not have papers to become eligible for in-state tuition

- there are underutilized resources in both the university and in the community for helping students and others to obtain global perspectives—need to get foreign students into public schools and generally facilitate more cultural transfer

- UNC needs to help get to children early about the need to change attitudes toward diversity in their communities

- Emphasize students' learning foreign languages

- UNC needs to help historically black universities within and outside the system to increase retention, especially of African-American males

## **Art & Culture Issues**

- Champion creativity across all disciplines, helping to develop creative leadership
- Create a creative community and enhancing life-long education for creativity by bringing in more performers and speakers and expanding its collaborations beyond the usual suspects as a center point for creative thinking
- Play greater role in creating artistic and intellectual role in Charlotte and having access to challenging and interesting programs: similar to programs available at 92<sup>nd</sup> St. Y. New Uptown facility has opportunity to provide this type of programming and make accessible to inquisitive programming. Challenging conventional thinking.

## **Environment Issues**

- Environmental sustainability; enacting progressive policies will attract the kinds of students you want. Teach students environmental literacy by creating new programs who can successfully integrate environmental issues into architecture, engineering, etc. Universities should be environmental resources on local issues to help community figure out how to solve those problems. Increase student fees to help with sustainable projects.
- University system-wide needs to commit to 0 carbon emissions and taking issues of water seriously.
- If the universities would address issues of clean air. People are motivated to save the planet and to help each other. A local community thinking globally. “We are the planet thinking about itself.”

- The most serious challenge is global warming; related challenge is water shortages; the universities can help: everyday 81% of our water withdrawals go to make electricity.
- As you may know, they're getting ready to build a coal plant (Duke) and they use tremendous amount of water. Couldn't get scientists or economist from the University, but no one would offer to help. Faculty refused to offer their assistance because of Duke's influence (fellowships, endowments, etc.). The university won't take a stand on anything; give professors the academic freedom to talk about the solutions.
- UNC needs to be clean and green—commit to low carbon emissions and to helping solve water problems
- UNC needs to help identify ways to develop environmentally supportive sources of economical development
- UNC needs to foster debates about environmental issues and ensure academic freedom for faculty and students who differ with the positions of the corporations supporting the university
- Sustainability should be a major issue on campuses

## **Notable Quotes**

*“The one thing the university is well-positioned to do is to change the attitude of many in this state to the changing demographics that are inevitable. We see a resistance to bring about the kinds of changes that will incorporate all those skills sets into this community. Increasing divisiveness; the university can inculcate into the study body that we are all part of the same community. This is a great community; we are moving toward an election that will tell us who we really are as a community; are we willing to face the challenges of the future.” – Park Helms, former Chair of County Commissioners*

*“ We should be better using the resources of the university to expand our knowledge and understanding of the quickly and dramatically changing demographics here, and ask for the university’s assistance in helping us cope with it.” Mike Hawley, Chair of the World Affairs Council*

*“Leaders who can think creatively are more successful because they can rise above the predictable responses to problems.” Suzanne Fetscher, Executive Director of the McColl Center for Visual Arts*

*“We need to be educating more hell-raisers. Young people shouldn’t be too comfortable.”*

*“Students can learn from their buildings as well as in their buildings.”*