

University Highlights from 2007 Legislative Session

- The University of North Carolina had one of the most successful state sessions in the country this year.
- The University received an overall 10.6% increase in operating appropriations from the General Fund, with an additional \$35 million for need-based financial aid provided from the Escheats Fund.¹
- The University began the continuation budget process with an authorized budget of \$2.4 billion and ended the session with an authorized budget of \$2.7 billion.²
- The General Assembly provided funding or authorized certificates of participation for 26 capital projects totaling \$614 million. These funds will complete 13 campus projects and will provide planning or partial funding for an additional 13 projects.
- Many of the Board of Governors' highest priorities received funding:
 - Need-based financial aid (from Escheats);
 - Funding to support approximately 1/3 of the Board's request to increase faculty salaries to the 80th percentile of campus peers;
 - UNC Online Initiative;
 - Matching funds for the first year of the Distinguished Professors Challenge Grant initiative; and
 - Summer academic bridge & student retention pilot programs.
- Additionally, the General Assembly appropriated funds to provide an average 4% merit pay increase for faculty and EPA non-faculty.
- Strong focus was placed on University research, with appropriations for:
 - Landmark funding for cancer research at UNC-CH that will increase to \$50 million annually;
 - Creation of a Research Competitiveness Fund;
 - Graduate student recruitment & retention (first new funding since 1998);
 - Research Campus at Kannapolis;
 - Support for NCSU College of Engineering; and
 - Joint program in nanosciences & nanoengineering at NC A&T and UNCG.
- All ten pieces of legislation in the University's non-budget legislative agenda were passed, including:
 - Short-term PACE recommendations implemented;
 - Privacy protection provided for admission applications;
 - UNC campuses made smoke-free;
 - UNC Hospitals allowed to make debt collection practices more patient-friendly; and
 - UNC campuses authorized to begin non-appropriated capital projects totaling \$334 million.

8.8.07

¹ It is still too early to know the campus-specific impact of the budget on the Board's four-year tuition plan, which hinges on the percentage increase in each campus' operating appropriations per FTE student.

² Growth includes increased state aid to private colleges and universities.