



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
Committee on Strategic Initiatives

May 23, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.  
University of North Carolina System Office  
Center for School Leadership Development, Room 128  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

## AGENDA

- A-1. [Approval of the Minutes of April 20, 2018](#) ..... Alex Mitchell
- A-2. [Review of Advanced Placement in North Carolina and the UNC System](#) ..... Alex Mitchell
- A-3. [Discussion of Draft Framework for UNC System AP Credit Acceptance Policy](#) ..... Alex Mitchell
- A-4. Adjourn

### Additional Information Available

- A-2. [AP Credit Acceptance Policy Presentation](#)
- A-2. [AP in North Carolina FAQs](#)
- A-2. [April 20, 2018 Full Presentation: AP Credit Acceptance Policy](#)

## DRAFT MINUTES

April 20, 2018  
University of North Carolina System Office  
Center for School Leadership Development, Room 128  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

This meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was presided over by Chair Alex Mitchell. The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were also present in person or by phone: Alex Mitchell, Anna Nelson, Randall Ramsey, Darrell Allison, Pearl Burris-Floyd, Robert Bryan, Ann Maxwell, Doyle Parrish, and Harry Smith. The following committee members were absent: Steven Long, Temple Sloan and Tyler Hardin.

Chancellor participating was James Anderson.

Staff members present included Andrew Kelly and others from the UNC System Office.

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### 1. Call to Order and Approval of OPEN Session Minutes (Item A-1)

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am on Friday, April 20, 2018, and called for a motion to approve the open session minutes of January 25, 2018.

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on Strategic Initiatives approve the open session minutes of January 25, 2018, as distributed.

**Motion:** Harry Smith  
**Motion carried**

### 2. Advanced Placement (AP) Credit Policy Across the UNC System

Chair Mitchell opened the discussion regarding the AP Credit Acceptance Policy. Andrew Kelly provided an outline for the discussion and presentation regarding the AP Credit Policy work, which included input from several of the UNC System institutions. The discussion provided an overview of the work that is currently being done. Discussion will continue at the May meeting regarding the process moving forward, which will include a possible joint meeting with the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

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Randall Ramsey, Secretary

## AGENDA ITEM

### A-2. Review of Advanced Placement in North Carolina and the UNC System .....Alex Mitchell

**Situation:**

The Committee on Strategic Initiatives has been examining ideas to promote student success and timely degree completion. Research suggests that students who earn college credit prior to enrolling in college through dual enrollment programs or exam-based credit (i.e.: Advanced Placement [AP])—are more likely to graduate and do so in a timely fashion. In light of the sizable investment the state has made in paying for AP exams, the Chair of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives tasked UNC System Office staff with examining AP credit acceptance policies across UNC System institutions; the number of students who matriculate at UNC System institutions having taken AP exams; and the effect of potential changes to institution- and System-level policies.

Preliminary assessments regarding these topics were presented to the committee at its April 20, 2018 meeting. The committee subsequently tasked UNC System Office staff with soliciting feedback from stakeholders on the issue and drafting a policy that the Committee could consider at a future meeting.

**Background:**

A student admitted to a UNC System institution may receive undergraduate credit for college-level work completed at an existing institution of higher education or based on evidence that the student has achieved college-level proficiency in a particular subject area, as indicated by the student's performance on an exam. As a state, North Carolina has invested heavily in making such credit available through AP exams, early college high schools, and dual enrollment. For instance, in 2016-17, the General Assembly spent more than \$12 million to cover the cost of AP exams for North Carolina public high school students.

Currently, the AP exam score necessary to receive undergraduate credit at UNC System institutions varies across universities and subject areas.

At the request of the Chair of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives, UNC System Office staff have examined AP credit acceptance policies across subject areas and UNC System institutions; the distribution of AP exam scores across incoming UNC System students; and the approaches that other states and state systems have taken to AP credit policy.

**Assessment:**

At this meeting, the Committee on Strategic Initiatives will review information on the AP program in North Carolina, existing AP credit acceptance policies at UNC System

institutions, and the potential effects of a system-wide AP policy. In addition, the committee will hear feedback from stakeholders on the issue.

**Action:** This item is for information only.

**AGENDA ITEM**

A-3. Draft Framework for UNC AP Credit Acceptance Policy .....Alex Mitchell

**Situation:**

The Committee on Strategic Initiatives has been examining ideas to promote student success and timely degree completion. Research suggests that students who earn college credit prior to enrolling in college through dual enrollment programs or exam-based credit (i.e.: Advanced Placement [AP], International Baccalaureate [IB])—are more likely to graduate and do so in a timely fashion. On April 20, 2018, the Committee on Strategic Initiatives has reviewed data on the prevalence of AP credit acceptance across UNC System institutions, examined policies in other states, and assessed the likely effects of potential changes to System policy. The Committee tasked UNC System Office staff with soliciting feedback from stakeholders on the issue and drafting a potential AP credit acceptance policy, which the committee could consider for adoption.

**Background:**

A student admitted to a UNC System institution may receive undergraduate credit for college-level work completed at an existing institution of higher education or based on evidence that the student has achieved college-level proficiency in a particular subject area, as indicated by the student's performance on an exam. As a state, North Carolina has invested heavily in making such credit available through AP exams, early college high schools, and dual enrollment. For instance, in 2016-17, the General Assembly spent more than \$12 million to cover the cost of AP exams for North Carolina public high school students.

Currently, the AP exam score necessary to receive undergraduate credit at UNC System institutions varies across universities and subject areas.

At the request of the Chair of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives, UNC System Office staff have examined AP credit acceptance policies across subject areas and UNC System institutions; the distribution of AP exam scores across incoming UNC System students; and the approaches that other states and state systems have taken to AP credit policy. Preliminary assessments regarding these topics were presented to the committee at its April 20, 2018 meeting.

**Assessment:**

The Committee on Strategic Initiatives will discuss a draft framework for a system-wide AP credit acceptance policy and hear feedback from stakeholders.

**Action:**

This item is for information only.

## **DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR UNC SYSTEM POLICY ON ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS**

### **Undergraduate Credit for Advanced Placement Courses and Testing**

The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina hereby instructs the University of North Carolina System Office to create, disseminate, and enforce regulations whereby UNC System institutions will award an appropriate number of semester credit hours to matriculating undergraduates who have earned a score of three or higher on an Advanced Placement exam. An institution with compelling reasons as to why a score other than three must be required for a student to receive course credit may petition to have an exception approved by its board of trustees. Compelling reasons must be based on analyses of academic outcomes as described in the associated regulations.

An institution must report any exceptions granted by its board of trustees, and the reasons and evidence for those exceptions, to the UNC System Office by the end of calendar year 2019 and annually thereafter. The Board of Governors may inspect adherence to these regulations as it sees fit.