



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Committee on Strategic Initiatives

January 16, 2020 at 3:00 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 November 14, 2019.....Carolyn Coward
- A-2. Summer School Study Update Andrew P. Kelly
- A-3. UNC Need-based Grant Update..... Andrew P. Kelly
 - a. Rachelle Feldman, UNC-Chapel Hill
 - b. Sharon Oliver, North Carolina Central University
 - c. Krista Ringler, NC State University
- A-4. Adjourn

DRAFT MINUTES

November 14, 2019
Elizabeth City State University
K.E. White Graduate Center, Room 130
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

This meeting of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives was presided over by Chair Carolyn Coward. The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were also present: Kellie Blue and Adam Schmidt. The following committee members were absent: Michael Williford and J. Alex Mitchell.

Chancellors participating were Chancellor Sheri Everts and Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson.

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

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:04pm, and called for a motion to approve the open session minutes of September 19, 2019.

MOTION: Resolved, that the Committee on Strategic Initiatives approve the open session minutes of September 19th, 2019 as distributed.

Motion: Kellie Blue

Motion: Carried

2. Welcome (Item A-2)

The chair outlined all of the initiatives she is planning to take on as the new chair during the 2019-2020 Board Year.

3. Review of Proposed Initiatives and Areas of Focus for 2019-20 (Item A-3)

Dr. Andrew Kelly outlined the various initiatives the committee has discussed in the past in addition to future initiatives. Topics covered included, student mental health, grant completions, and financial aid. Following the presentation the committee held an open discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:58pm.

Michael Williford, Secretary

AGENDA ITEM

A-2. Summer School Study Update Andrew Kelly

Situation: The Board of Governors' budget priorities for the 2019-21 biennium included a request to provide state appropriation for undergraduate summer credit hours. Summer school funding was included in the House budget but was not included in the conference report. However, the House passed HB 305, which called on the UNC System Office to conduct a study of summer school. In this session, the Committee will hear an update regarding progress on that study and a potential budget request for the legislative short session in 2020.

Background: The Committee on Strategic Initiatives has taken a close look at the opportunity to increase student success and reduce time to degree by expanding enrollments and course offerings during summer sessions. As a result of these discussions, the Board included a request to fund undergraduate credit hours delivered by each institution in the summer in its budget priorities for the 2019-21 biennium. The request was not funded in the legislative long session. The UNC System Office was tasked with conducting a study of summer school by HB 305, which passed the House but not the Senate.

During November meeting, the Committee on Strategic Initiatives discussed the chair's three proposed priorities, which included a continuation of the effort to expand summer school in order to promote on-time graduation rates. That continued effort will include completion of the study outlined in HB 305 and refinement of the summer school request for the short legislative session.

Assessment: In this meeting, the committee will receive an update on progress toward these objectives.

Action: This item is for discussion only.

AGENDA ITEM

A-3. UNC Need-based Grant Update Andrew Kelly

Situation: Need-based grants and scholarships are critical to helping more students enroll in college, persist, and complete a degree in a timely fashion. Students who attend a UNC System institution and who demonstrate financial need can qualify for the UNC Need-based Grant (UNC NBG), which ranges up to a maximum of \$4,200 per year. In 2017-18, more than 50,000 students received a UNC NBG at a total cost of \$123.6 million in state appropriation. In this session, the Committee on Strategic Initiatives will hear from financial aid officers at three universities about the limitations of the UNC NBG and the opportunities to simplify and improve it.

Background: In 2018-19, the UNC System partnered with the North Carolina Community College System to convene the North Carolina Student Aid Study Group, a task force of policymakers, financial aid officers, and other experts assembled to examine state grant programs that fund UNC and NCCC System students and make recommendations for improvement. The Study Group identified several challenges with respect to state grant programs, in particular the complexity and unpredictability of the UNC Need-based Grant.

A primary recommendation of the Study Group was to consolidate the grant programs—including the UNC NBG—into one, simplified state scholarship.

In its November meeting, the Committee on Strategic Initiatives examined the current state of the UNC Need-based Grant, the strengths and weaknesses of the existing program, and some opportunities for improvement identified by the NC Student Aid Study Group.

This session will build on that discussion by featuring remarks from three financial aid officers from UNC System universities: Rachelle Feldman from UNC-Chapel Hill; Sharon Oliver from North Carolina Central; and Krista Ringler from NC State University.

Assessment: In this meeting, the committee will hear from expert financial aid practitioners who will examine the current design of the UNC Need-based Grant, its limitations, and potential areas for improvement.

Action: This item is for discussion only.