



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Committee on Strategic Initiatives

February 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM
University of North Carolina System Office
Center for School Leadership Development, Board Room
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

AGENDA

- A-1. Approval of the Minutes of January 16, 2020.....Carolyn Coward

- A-2. Information Session: Teacher Preparation.....Andrew P. Kelly
Kim Winter, Western Carolina University
Dr. Anthony Graham, Winston-Salem State University

- A-3. Updates on Committee Priorities in Proposed Budget and Policy Agenda Andrew P. Kelly

- A-4. Adjourn

DRAFT MINUTES

January 16, 2020
University of North Carolina System Office
Center for School Leadership Development Room 128
Chapel Hill, 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: J. Alexander Mitchell, Michael Williford, Kellie Hunt Blue, and Adam Schmidt.

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

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

Other guests included Rachelle Feldman, Sharon Oliver, and Krista Ringler.

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and called for a motion to approve the open session minutes of November 14, 2019.

MOTION: Resolved, that the Committee on Strategic Initiatives approve the open session minutes of November 14th, 2019 as distributed.

Motion: Kellie Blue

Motion: Carried

2. Summer School Study Updates (Item A-2)

Dr. Andrew Kelly outlined the information that the System requested of universities regarding summer courses. Dr. Kelly reviewed the courses that were most common across institutions, credit hour allocations in the summer, and the relationship between summer enrollment and degree completion. Following the presentation, the committee held an open discussion.

3. UNC Need-based Grant update (Item A-3)

Financial aid officers from constituent universities Rachelle Feldman, Sharon Oliver, and Krista Ringler provided the committee with their perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of the UNC Need-based Grant. The committee briefly discussed possible solutions following the presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:02pm.

Michael Williford, Secretary



AGENDA ITEM

- A-2. Information Session: Teacher Preparation..... Andrew Kelly
Dr. Kim Winter, Western Carolina University
Dr. Anthony Graham, Winston-Salem State University

Situation: Nearly 40 percent of the public school teachers in North Carolina are graduates of a UNC System university. Each year, the System produces approximately 4,000 licensed teachers to serve in every corner of the state.

This session will feature the two chairs of the UNC System’s Educator Preparation Advisory Group, who will provide an overview of teacher preparation in the UNC System, the trends and challenges in this area, and potential opportunities for improvement.

Background:

Teacher effectiveness is the single most important school-level influence on student achievement. Research has shown that students who are assigned to a highly-effective teacher are more likely to enroll in higher education and experience higher wages over the course of their lifetime than those who are assigned to less effective teachers.

In light of the importance of teacher effectiveness, policymakers and higher education leaders have identified teacher preparation programs as a key lever to improve student achievement in the public schools. A handful of states have undertaken systematic reviews of educator preparation coursework and field experiences to ensure that they align with state standards and the latest research, particularly in literacy.

The Board of Governors and the UNC System Office have undertaken efforts to improve many different aspects of teacher preparation, including the pipeline of students into the profession, the training teachers receive, and the data available to assess program effectiveness. In 2017, the General Assembly has reformed teacher licensure, set new standards for educator preparation programs, and implemented a system of accountability designed to judge program quality based on the success of graduates in the classroom. The State Board of Education recently appointed a task force on early literacy, which will make recommendations about teacher preparation curriculum this spring.

Assessment:

This spring, the Board of Governors will explore the state of teacher preparation in the System and identify opportunities to improve.

In this meeting, the committee will receive an overview of teacher preparation in the UNC System, the trends and challenges in this area, and the opportunities for improvement.

Action:

This item is for discussion only.



AGENDA ITEM

A-3. Update on Committee Priorities in the Proposed Budget and Policy Agenda Andrew Kelly

Situation: The Board of Governors' draft budget and policy priorities for the 2020 legislative session include two items that the Committee on Strategic Initiatives has examined this year: summer school funding and reforms to simplify state grant programs.

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 2019 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 and an effort to simplify the state grant programs that serve UNC students. In January, the Committee received an update on the summer school study and heard from university financial aid officers about potential changes to improve the effectiveness of state grant reforms. Those discussions are reflected in the draft budget and policy priorities that the Board of Governors will review at this meeting and vote to approve in March.

Assessment: In this meeting, the committee will receive an update on the status of committee priorities in the draft budget and policy agenda.

Action: This item is for discussion only.