

The third public comment session of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors was held on September 9, 2016, in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Board meeting. Two commenters participated in this session. Below are responses to topics raised during the September session.

Affordability and State Funding

The North Carolina State Constitution directs that the benefits of the University of North Carolina and other public institutions of higher education be extended to the people of the state free of expense, as far as practicable. Affordability has been and will continue to be a consistent focus of the University, particularly when considering changes to tuition and fees. One of the themes of the strategic plan is affordability and efficiency, and this topic will continue to be included in the Board's strategic planning discussions.

Both speakers specifically raised questions about state appropriations, tuition, and fees per student. While nationally, appropriations per student have been decreasing, North Carolina has seen a different trend. We have seen a 15% increase in appropriation per student over the last ten years, while nationally appropriation per student has decreased 3% over the same period. On average, UNC has consistently received \$3,425 more in state appropriation per student than the rest of the US. This has allowed UNC tuition and fees to stay lower on average. For more information, view the Affordability and Efficiency Benchmark II document presented at the September Board of Governors meeting. https://www.northcarolina.edu/sites/default/files/affordability_benchmark_ii.pdf

Program Cuts

One speaker raised questions about program cuts. The University of North Carolina is dedicated to providing students with a quality education that includes a variety of fields to study. Our institutions are continuously evaluating the potential for new degree programs, as well as the viability of existing degree programs, to meet state needs. UNC General Administration works closely with institutions to bring their recommendations to the UNC Board of Governors for both establishing and discontinuing degree programs. In some cases, discontinued degree programs can be combined or consolidated. Any student enrolled in a program at the time the program is discontinued is allowed to complete the degree.