



# THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

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## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: UNC Chancellors

FROM: Dr. David English, Acting Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and CAO

DATE: October 3, 2023

RE: Guidance on Changes to Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund

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The 2023 Appropriations Act (S.L. 2023-134, Sec 8.18) included statutory changes to the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund (DPETF) program. Part 4A of Article 1 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes was rewritten to specify that any distinguished professorship established on or after October 2, 2023 must be for scholars for degree programs in STEM subject areas. The UNC System Office is working to amend impacted sections of the UNC Policy Manual; until those updates have been promulgated, this memorandum shall serve as official guidance on implementation of the changes.

A distinguished professorship is considered to be established at the institution if full private funding and the state match are in hand at the campus. Degree programs in STEM subject areas include only the following CIP Codes: 01 Agriculture, 03 Natural Resources, 11 Computer Science, 14 Engineering, 15 Engineering Technology, 26 Biological Sciences, 27 Math and Statistics, 29 Military Technology, 40 Physical Sciences, 51 Health Professions, 51.38 Nursing. These STEM CIP codes are identified in the [2023 Enrollment User Manual](#).

Distinguished professorships established at the campus (full private funding and state match in hand) prior to October 2, 2023, are not impacted by the change in state law. Those distinguished professorships are not eligible for any additional matching funds, however, unless they are transitioned to an approved STEM field. Any new distinguished professorship request submitted to the UNC System Office for review must satisfy the new STEM requirements.

There are several distinguished professorships “in the queue” awaiting the state match. Those are professorships for which private funding is in hand, but the state match has not been transferred to the institution. Given that anything in the queue is being funded with FY24 or future appropriations, those distinguished professorships must adhere to the new STEM requirements to be eligible for state match funding.

We will work with constituent institutions to identify which distinguished professorships in the queue satisfy the new STEM requirement and which are non-STEM. Constituent institutions will be notified of the distinguished professorships determined to be non-STEM; non-STEM distinguished professorships will be removed from the queue. The impacted constituent institutions can then review their options internally, which can include working with the donor to alter the approved plan to meet the STEM requirement. If an institution elects to modify a non-STEM distinguished professorship plan to meet the STEM requirement, it shall maintain its original date of submission to the queue.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you have regarding implementation of these provisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David English", written in a cursive style.

David English

Cc: Provosts  
Chief Financial Officers  
Chiefs of Staff  
Chief Advancement Officers  
State Relations Council