

AGENDA
Advocacy Committee
February 11, 2021

- I. Approval of November 5, 2020 Minutes

- II. Committee Liaison Updates
 - a. NC General Assembly
 - b. Board of Governors
 - c. Board of Visitors
 - d. Pirate Club
 - e. Medical and Health Sciences Foundation
 - f. Alumni Association
 - g. ECU Foundation

- III. State Relations Update

- IV. ECU Day at the North Carolina General Assembly



Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee

February 11, 2021

Agenda Item: I. Approval of Minutes - November 5, 2020

Responsible Person: Scott Shook
Committee Chair

Action Requested: Action

Notes:

Advocacy Committee November 5, 2020

The Advocacy AdHoc Committee met during the regular scheduled Board of Trustees meeting on Nov. 5, 2020. Chair Scott Shook called the meeting to order and asked Megan Ayers to call the roll. All committee members were present: Leigh Fanning, Max Joyner, Vince Smith, Scott Shook and Angela Moss.

Mr. Shook read the conflict of interest statement and no conflicts were identified.

Mr. Shook asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2020 meeting. Ms. Moss motioned approval and Mr. Joyner seconded.

The committee proceeded with a roll call vote:

Leigh Fanning - yay
Max Joyner - yay
Scott Shook - yay
Vince Smith - yay
Angela Moss - yay

The committee identified key constituent groups and reviewed liaison assignments for 2020-2021:

NC General Assembly: Scott Shook, Leigh Fanning, Max Joyner
UNC Board of Governors: Angela Moss
Board of Governors: Max Joyner
Pirate Club Executive Board: Scott Shook
Alumni Association Board of Directors: Vince Smith
Medical & Health Sciences Foundation Board: Angela Moss
ECU Foundation Board: Vince Smith

The committee heard a state relations update from Michelle Brooks. President Hans directed campuses to submit policy agenda items for consideration of addition to the system's legislative agenda. ECU has submitted items to the system office. The Board of Governors committee will review all campus policy requests and vote to recommend approval of addition to the system's legislative agenda at the November Board of Governors meeting.

Hearing no further business to come before the board, Mr. Shook adjourned the meeting.

Michelle advised the committee that she will keep them up to date on the progress of ECU's policy agenda items.

Hearing no other items, Mr. Shook asked for a motion to adjourn the committee meeting. Mr. Joyner motioned and the committee meeting adjourned.



Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee

February 11, 2021

Agenda Item: II. Committee Liaison Updates

Responsible Person: Committee Liaisons

Action Requested: Information

Notes:

1. NC General Assembly - Scott Shook, Leigh Fanning, Max Joyner
2. UNC Board of Governors - Angela Moss
3. Board of Visitors - Max Joyner
4. Pirate Club Executive Board - Scott Shook
5. Alumni Association Board of Directors - Vince Smith
6. Medical and Health Sciences Foundation Board - Angela Moss
7. ECU Foundation Board - Vince Smith



Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee

February 11, 2021

Agenda Item: III. State Relations Update

Responsible Person: Michelle Brooks

Action Requested: Information

Notes:

University of North Carolina

FY 2021-23 Operating Budget Priorities

		FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
2021-23 Base Budget <i>(Excludes Aid to Private Institutions)</i>		\$2,962,056,895	\$2,962,173,367
UNC System Enrollment Funding			
Despite the pandemic, the UNC System had the highest student enrollment in the System's history. Funding for enrollment growth will support high-quality education for new students across the state, including at the NCSSM Morganton campus.	NR to R*	\$29,392,231	\$29,392,231
	FY 2021-23	40,176,497	83,998,971
		1,334,264 NR	347,412 NR
Total		\$69,568,728	\$113,391,202
		\$1,334,264 NR	\$347,412 NR
NC Promise Program			
The NC Promise program has been a tremendous benefit to students at some of our most rural institutions, demonstrating North Carolina's unparalleled commitment to affordability. Enrollment at ECSU, UNCP, and WCU is expected to continue to grow.	NR to R*	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000
	FY 2021-23	—	5,000,000
Total		\$15,000,000	\$20,000,000
Building Reserves			
The Connect NC bond significantly increased the number of new appropriated capital projects in the UNC System. As these buildings begin to reach completion, there are substantial needs for maintenance and operation funding. The UNC System is also requesting \$3,985,459 NR in FY 2020-21 for buildings coming online this fiscal year.	NR to R*	\$15,143,629	\$15,143,629
	FY 2021-23	10,904,122	20,480,657
		2,804,782 NR	1,242,230 NR
Total		\$26,047,751	\$35,624,286
		\$2,804,782 NR	\$1,242,230 NR
		\$110,616,479	\$169,015,488
		4,139,046 NR	1,589,642 NR
Total Requested Increase		\$114,755,525	\$170,605,130
Total Percent Change		3.87%	5.76%
* Total request includes the conversion of FY 2021 nonrecurring to recurring, as well as new funding for FY 2021-23.			

Faculty and Staff Salaries

UNC System faculty and staff have been working hard educating, promoting student success, and producing groundbreaking research. We have seen the results of these efforts in our steadily increasing graduation rates and nationally recognized research on treatment and prevention of COVID-19.

UNC System requests equity with state agencies

UNC System employees have not had a salary increase in two years and have not received an increase that was equivalent to that of other state agencies in three years.

Note: All items are recurring unless specified as nonrecurring.



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

2021 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

SUMMARY OF PRIORITY PROPOSALS

Institute Efficiencies to Respond to the Impacts of COVID

1. Support additional HR flexibilities

The UNC System needs additional tools to address potential funding pressures to the university. These flexibilities include:

- Expanded availability of early retirement beyond faculty positions;
- Additional authority for furloughs;
- Flexibility over reduction in force and severance payment using existing resources;
- Permission for state employees to continue using vacation and/or sick leave interchangeably through December 2021; and
- Authority for the University to cover (using non-State dollars) furloughed employees' contributions to state health plan monthly premiums.

2. Amend carryforward authority to allow for additional uses

In S. 212, the legislature increased carryforward authority to five percent, but limited the eligible use to repairs and renovations exclusively. We seek the authority to use identified HR and operational efficiencies to minimize the impact to our institutions.

3. Retroactively extend waiver of interest charges on past due accounts (included in S. 704)

In S. 704 signed into law in May 2020, the legislature included a waiver of interest charges on past due student debt that was outstanding from March 13, 2020, through September 15, 2020. The impacts of COVID continue to be felt, and the need to financially support students through the pandemic remains critical. We seek to remove any obstacle to our students' successful completion of their educational pursuits.



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

2021 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

University Efficiencies

1. Consolidate and simplify the UNC Need-based Grant, Education Lottery Scholarship, and Community College Grant into one North Carolina Scholarship

The existence of three separate programs, with three different eligibility criteria, makes state-based grant programs more complex to navigate and understand for students and families. Consolidating these three programs into a single North Carolina Scholarship would create a simpler, more user-friendly state aid system.

2. Exempt finance and auditor officers from most of the NC HR Act

In an effort to be competitive in hiring and retaining finance and auditor officers, we seek legislative support for exempting these personnel. Exempting these positions from NC HR Act (EHRA non-faculty) would allow for better hiring and compensation practices. Existing employees will have the ability to opt in to EHRA classification, while new employees will be hired as exempt employees. This is consistent with our change to IT employees three years ago.

3. Report consolidation or eliminations

Over the years, the UNC System has been required to submit reports on a number of different activities within the University. In some cases, the usefulness of individual reports isn't apparent. We need to eliminate or reduce the frequency of those reports that are of limited value. While we value transparency, many reports require a significant investment of time at the System Office and/or across the 17 constituent institutions, and, in some cases, these reports have outlived their usefulness. We are actively working with Fiscal Research Division to identify reports which may fall into these categories.



Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee
February 11, 2021

Agenda Item: IV. ECU Day at the General Assembly

Responsible Person: Michelle Brooks

Action Requested: Information

Notes: