

AGENDA
University Affairs Committee
April 24, 2025

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|------|--|-------------|
| I. | Approval of Minutes – February 6, 2025 | Action |
| II. | Conferral of Degrees | Action |
| III. | UNC Intercollegiate Athletics Report | Information |
| IV. | Report of Waivers for Exceeding 120-Credit Hour Limits | Information |
| V. | Closed Session | |



Meeting of the Board of Trustees
University Affairs Committee
April 24, 2025

AGENDA ITEM

- I. Approval of Minutes February 6, 2025..... Dave Fussell
Committee Chair

Situation: Approval of the minutes from the University Affairs Committee February 6, 2025, is required.

Background:

Assessment:

Action: This item requires a vote by the committee.



Minutes from the University Affairs Committee

February 6, 2025 – Main Campus Student Center and Online Meeting

The University Affairs Committee of the ECU Board of Trustees met in person on Thursday, February 6, 2025.

Committee members present:

Dave Fussell (chair); Tom Furr; Anderson Ward; Vince Smith; Vanessa Workman; Jim Segrave

Other Board members present:

Board Chair Jason Poole, Cassie Burt, Van Isley, Carl Rogers, Scott Shook

Trustee Dave Fussell, Chair of the Committee, convened the meeting at 1:14PM. Chairman Fussell read the conflict-of-interest provisions as required by the State Government Ethics Act and asked if anyone would like to declare or report an actual or perceived conflict. None were reported.

Chairman Fussell called role and a quorum was established.

I. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fussell asked for the approval of the minutes of the November 21, 2024 meeting of the University Affairs Committee. Trustee Smith motioned and received a second. All were in favor.

Action Item

The minutes of the November 21, 2024 committee meeting were approved with no changes.

II. ECU Water Resources Center

ECU is seeking BOT approval of the request to plan the ECU Water Resources Center (WRC), to be designated as a UNC System Center. Dr. Buddo drew the committee's attention to the meeting materials, particularly as to the relevance of the center's mission and alignment with the institutional priorities. The center has existed at ECU since 2018 and has helped secure and support over \$20 million in external research funding since its inception.

Trustee Ward motioned for the approval of ECU's request to plan the ECU Water Resources Center as a UNC System Center. Trustee Furr motioned and received a second. All were in favor.

**Minutes from the University Affairs Committee
November 21, 2024 – Main Campus Student Center and Online Meeting**

Action Item

The committee voted to approve the Request to Plan a UNC System Center for the ECU Water Resources Center and to add to the consent agenda for the February 7, 2025 full Board meeting.

III. 2025 UNC System Institutional Peer Study Update

Chair Fussell introduced the topic and asked Interim Provost Buddo to present to the committee. Dr. Buddo shared that it is ECU's year to revisit their peer group (last done in 2020) as guided by the System Office process, and described a little about what the process looks like and the workgroup who managed the deliverables. Dr. Buddo illustrated both the official uses of the peer list (like as consult for analysis in the areas of tuition and fees, faculty workload, staff salaries, etc.) and also the practical ways in which we see this list being used. Dr. Buddo reminded the committee not to think of these in terms of comparison for athletic conferences or programs, but in terms of academic and student success benchmarking.

Dr. Buddo outlined the process by which the workgroup for this exercise arrived at the finalized list of proposed peers, and some of the considerations they took into account. He also shared upon receiving a question that Virginia Commonwealth was the aspirational peer out of those named. Trustee Ward asked whether this list was likely to change and we do not believe that to be the case based on conversations with the system office to date. The final list of official peers this cycle will be submitted to the system office later this month.

Action Item

This item is for information only.

With no further business before the committee, they were adjourned at 1:26PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine Bade Griffith, Office of the Provost



AGENDA ITEM

- II. Conferral of Degrees..... Chris Buddo
Int. Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Situation:	The 116 th Spring Commencement at East Carolina University is scheduled for Friday, May 9, 2025 at 10 am.
Background:	The ECU Board of Trustees has the authority and responsibility to confer the degrees for candidates who have been approved by the Chancellor and Faculty Senate.
Assessment:	Proposed Motion: "I move the candidates for degrees, as approved by the Chancellor and the Faculty Senate, be authorized for conferral at the annual Spring Commencement on Friday, May 9, 2025 at 10 am."
Action:	This item requires a vote by the committee and a vote by the full Board of Trustees.



AGENDA ITEM

- III. Intercollegiate Athletics Report Chris Buddo
Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Situation:	UNC Policy 1100.1 states that a report on student-athlete admissions, academic performance, and progress towards a degree, as well as financial reporting be provided each year to the institution's Board of Trustees, and submitted to the UNC System Office.
Background:	Information in this year's report includes data for Academic Year 2023-2024. UNC Policy 700.6.1[G] requires an annual review of course-clustering of student-athlete enrollment be completed.
Assessment:	This year's assessment is comparable to prior years, with no significant findings and no irregularities.
Action:	This item is for information only.

2023-2024 Intercollegiate Athletics Survey

Survey Information and Tips

UNC Policy 1100.1 and 1100.1.1[R] requires the constituent institutions annually to compile and review financial and academic data on the intercollegiate athletics programs, and that the chancellors, boards of trustees review the information. The annual UNC Intercollegiate Athletics Report to the President and the UNC Board of Governors fulfills the requirement to disclose the academic characteristics and performance of the UNC system's student-athletes and institutional athletics departments. This data collection and subsequent report will fulfill all reporting requirements.

The information gathered via this survey will be compiled into the annual report, and is expected to be presented to the UNC Board of Governors at their May 2025 meeting.

Please complete and submit this form by March 22, 2025.

- Recommend printing/sending the survey to the different areas/offices with the information, and then have one person compile and enter the information for submission.
- Multiple documents are required (see file upload and follow naming conventions). You may upload additional, explanatory documents, as needed. Please submit all in PDF format.
- Please check financial information carefully and compare to the information submitted for the previous year. Any wide variations should be explained in an uploaded document.

Institution *

East Carolina University ▼

Contact/Submission POC Name *

Stephanie White

Contact/Submission POC Title *

Senior Associate Athletics Director, Student-Athlete Academic Service

Contact/Submission POC email *

whitestep21@ecu.edu

Undergraduate Student-Athlete Admissions

Per UNC Policy 1100.1 (section 13.b), all UNC institutions annually report to the UNC Board of Governors regarding their intercollegiate athletics programs and shall include

information regarding their "admission policy for student-athletes, including the definitions utilized for exceptions to campus-based criteria."

Provide URL of institution's student-athlete admissions policy and/or upload a file

If uploading a file, use the following naming convention: XXXX_SA_Admissions_Policy (where XXXX=your institutional abbreviation.)

Total of Recruited Freshman Student-Athletes *

Total of Recruited Freshman Student-Athletes who DID NOT MEET MCRs *

Total of Recruited Freshman Student-Athletes who DID NOT MEET MERs *

Average High School Core Course GPA of Recruited Freshman Student-Athletes *

Academic Integrity and Course Clustering

Per UNC Academic Integrity Regulation (700.6.1[R]) and Guidelines (700.6.1.1[G]), please provide information for the following questions related to academic integrity. The review consists of three steps:

1. Flagging and reviewing all course sections with possible clustering of student-athletes. Flagged courses are defined as student-athletes making up more than 25% or more of the section enrollment at time of census. The review consists of examining the grade distribution between student-athletes and non-student-athletes in flagged sections and the grade distribution between flagged sections and non-flagged sections of the same course.
2. Reviewing the transcripts of any student-athletes enrolled in three or more flagged courses.
3. If Steps #1 and #2 lead to identifying irregularities with regards to student-athletes and course clustering, then a document should be submitted explaining these irregularities and steps taken to review and ameliorate the irregularities.

Note: Student-athlete data for the next four items should include data across all terms in the academic year 2023-24.

For any explanations or expounding upon findings, include those in an attached file.

of Sections Flagged/Reviewed for Clustering *

of Flagged Sections found to be irregular *

For student-athletes enrolled in three or more flagged sections per academic year (including summers), the # of transcripts flagged for review

103

Of those transcripts flagged for review, the number found to be irregular

0

Review of Irregularities

If your institution found any irregularities, attach a summary document outlining the entire process of the institutional review of the Academic Integrity Guidelines and how your institution determined irregularities (or upon investigation found no irregularities after flags were raised) pertaining to UNC Policy 700.6.1.1[G], sections V.A.1., V.A.2., and V.A.3.

Please name the uploaded file in the following manner: XXXX_Irregularities (where XXXX=your institutional abbreviation)

GPA's and Student Success Metrics

Provide the results of your institutional analysis of Average Cumulative Student-Athlete GPA and Average Cumulative Non-Student Athletes GPA (see UNC Regulation 700.6.1[R]).

This comparison is for Spring 2024 only, and exclude graduate student athletes in this comparison.

GPA Analysis: Student-Athlete Average Cumulative GPA for Spring 2024 *

3.25

GPA Comparison: Non-Student Athlete Cumulative GPA for Spring 2024 *

3.10

Division I Institutions Enter 2023 Single-Year Academic Progress Rate (APR)

991

Division II Institutions Enter 2023 Single-Year Academic Success Rate (ASR)

Recruited Student-Athlete Academic Majors

Enter the number of majors in each area for all undergraduate recruited student athletes who are enrolled and achieved at least junior academic standing as of the Fall 2023. If any student-athletes are double majors, report both majors. Provide any additional explanation in an attached document.

01 Ag, etc

0

03 Natural Resources

0

04 Architecture

0

05 Area etc. studies

0

09 Comm/journalism

52

11 Computer/CIS

1

13 Education

6

14 Engineering

7

15 Eng tech

1

16 Foreign languages

1

19 Family Sci

4

23 Engilsh

1

24 Liberal Arts

0

26 Bio

5

27 Math

1

30 Multi/Interdisciplinary**31 Parks & Rec****38 Philos/Religion****40 Physical Sci****42 Psych****43 Security, etc****44 Public Admin****45 Social Sci****49 Transportation****50 Visual/Perf Arts****51 Health Prof****52 Business, etc****54 History****XX - Undecided**

Financial Information Related to Intercollegiate Athletics

Per UNC Regulation 1100.1.1[R], each institution is required to report certain financial data pertaining to their intercollegiate athletics program as part of "the University of North Carolina's commitment to ensuring integrity and transparency in its financial and other operations".

As the NCAA has changed the way it makes this information available (no longer accessible from the NCAA Financial Dashboard), all institutions are asked to provide the following financial data from the Institutional Performance Program (IPP) Dashboard.

Total # of SA *

Total Number of Student-Athletes (scholarship and non-scholarship)

Booster Club Information

Provide your booster club's operating procedures. You may report these operating procedures by pasting in a URL here, or by uploading a document.

Booster Club's Operating Procedures URL (or provide an attached document)

File Upload

Upload documents (in pdf format) explaining or expounding upon any information above.

Required Documents:

- An explanation of your institution's reporting structure for athletics compliance and whether and to whom the athletics compliance director reports outside of the department of athletics (see UNC Policy 1100.1.1[R]). Please name the uploaded file in the following manner: XXXX_Reporting_Structure (where XXXX=your institutional abbreviation).
- Booster Club's operating procedures (if no URL entered above). If uploading the booster club's operating procedures: Please name the uploaded file in the following manner: XXXX_Booster_Procedures (where XXXX=your institutional abbreviation).
- The booster club's annual audit by an independent agency. Please name the uploaded file in the following manner: XXXX_Booster_Audit (where XXXX=your institutional abbreviation).
- The completed Athletics_Financial_Reporting spreadsheet (template sent with announcement message). Add institutional abbreviation to the front of the file name.

 ECU_SA_Admissions_Policy.pdf

 ECU_Irregularities.pdf

 ECU_Reporting_Structure.pdf

 ECU_Booster_Audit.pdf

 ECU_Athletics_Financial_Reporting.xlsx

Drag and drop files here or [browse files](#)

Chancellor's Approval *

Please signify that the chancellor, or chancellor's designee, approves the institutional submission of all data in this survey.

☐

Thank You!

When all of your information is complete, please submit the form. You may elect to receive a copy via email.

If you find that you have submitted incomplete and/or incorrect information, please notify Mandy Dough (mdough@northcarolina.edu), and she can delete the entry and allow for a resubmission.

☐ Send me a copy of my responses

Submit

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**East Carolina University
Institutional Review of Academic Integrity Guidelines
Summer 2023-Spring 2024**

Summary Document

Reviewers

An audit of student-athlete course enrollment for the 2023-24 academic year was conducted by Angela Anderson – Academic Affairs, Wayne Poole – Internal Audit, and Stephanie White – Student-Athlete Academic Services

Data Timeframe Reviewed

The terms reviewed for this report included: all three Summer sessions 2023 (1st session, 2nd session, and the 11-week session), Fall 2023, and Spring 2024.

Review Process

The audit team used a business analytics tool to independently review the data. The team then came together to examine the scenarios that each reviewer had identified as warranting further attention.

Grade distribution (athletes and non-athletes) within flagged sections

Courses with a student-athlete enrollment of 20% or higher were identified as flagged and were examined in detail. UNC policy considers a section “flagged” when 25% or more of the enrollees are student-athletes. ECU, however, has historically set a higher standard and has reviewed sections with 20% or more student-athlete enrollees. Both the total number of students enrolled and the number of sections offered for a specific course were considered in the review.

For this reporting year, the audit identified 78 sections with 20% or more student-athletes. The review team examined these sections and identified those courses that should be considered in detail. The team concluded no irregularities.

Grade distribution between flagged and non-flagged sections of the same course

Course sections were examined for student-athlete grade distribution. This included courses with student-athlete enrollment as well as the same-named courses with no student-athlete enrollment. A scatterplot review of the data was used to examine the courses. No irregularities were found.

Transcript review for student-athletes enrolled in three or more flagged sections

Student-athletes enrolled in three or more sections with 20% or higher student-athlete enrollment for the academic period Summer 2023 – Spring 2024 were identified for further review. A total of 103 student-athletes were identified. The review team then closely examined the transcripts of those students. No irregularities were noted.




Conclusion

Review of student-athlete course enrollment analytics was completed for the 2023-24 academic year. No unexplained irregularities were identified, which would require reporting to the Provost and/or corrective action.






Process for Admitting Student-Athletes with Special Talent Waivers

1. The need for a Special Talent Admission request will be determined through the Preliminary Evaluation Process completed by the Office of Compliance in conjunction with the Office of Admissions. A prospective student-athlete who does not meet ECU's regular admission standards will need to be reviewed by the Academic Success Special Talent Waiver Committee (ASSTC) for admission consideration under the Special Talent "umbrella". The University's regular admission standards change annually and are determined by the Office of Admissions.
2. Once a prospective student-athlete (PSA) has been identified as a Special Talent candidate, the candidate's coach will initiate the process by submitting the "Special Talent Admissions Request Form" to the Office of Compliance which requires Sport Administrator approval.
3. The Office of Compliance will confirm the PSA has a complete admissions file (e.g. high school transcripts, test scores, application, application fee, etc.). A Special Talent Request will not move forward until a PSA has a complete admissions file.
4. The Office of Compliance will create the "Special Talent Admissions Request Packet." This packet will include the following:

Documents included for a FRESHMAN:

-  Copies of transcripts from ALL institutions attended;
-  Copies of ALL test scores; and
-  Copy of the Preliminary Evaluation.

Documents included for a TRANSFER:

-  Copies of transcripts from all institutions attended;
-  Copies of all test scores (if applicable);
-  Completed TRACER from all institutions attended;
-  Completed Transfer Assessment Form; and
-  Copy of the Preliminary Evaluation, which will include the transfer GPA.

5. The Office of Compliance will provide the Head Coach with the "Special Talent Admissions Packet." The Head Coach will review the Special Talent Admissions Packet with the Director of Athletics for review and approval via signature.
6. If approved by the Director of Athletics, the "Special Talent Admissions Packet" will be submitted back to the Office of Compliance. The Office of Compliance will then submit the packet to the Academic Success Special Talent Committee (ASSTC) for final approval for the PSA's admittance to the University.
7. The Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) serves as chair of the ASSTC. The FAR will set a date for the Committee's review of the Special Talent Request.

8. If approved by the ASSTC, the Office of Compliance will provide the form to the Office of Admissions for processing; they will notify the Office of Compliance of the formal decision in writing once processing is completed.

Guidelines for Review by the Academic Success Special Talent Committee

1. The Academic Success Special Talent Committee (ASSTC), appointed by the Chancellor, is chaired by the Faculty Athletics Representative and meets as needed. The committee is comprised of three faculty members (one being the FAR) and The Senior Associate AD of Student-Athlete Academic Services. The Committee's responsibility is to hear requests for admission waivers for student-athlete special talents.
2. Upon receipt of the packet from the Office of Compliance, the FAR will schedule a meeting of the committee. The FAR will also request that the Head Coach for the sport that the student-athlete is wanting to join attend this meeting in order to present their case for the student's need for a waiver.
3. The approval of the waiver request by the ASSTC is subjective and will be based on many different factors. Some of the factors will include:
 - a) A review of the submitting sport's APR. No sport with a current APR below the NCAA minimum will be granted a Special Talent Waiver.
 - b) A review of the success of prior students admitted via the special talent process. This information will be used by the ASC to determine whether the prospect should receive a Special Talent Waiver. For example, if the requesting sport has not been able to graduate their student-athletes admitted through this process at a rate commensurate with their overall graduation rate, this information will be considered by the committee in making their final admission decision.
 - c) A determination of whether the student-athlete is receiving aid.
 - d) A determination of whether the student-athlete is actually a special talent.
 - e) A review of other factors specific to the particular student-athlete, the sport, and the head coach.
4. For prospective student-athletes whose academic record places them under one of the following categories, additional information will be required for their packet (however, this information can also be requested by the ASSTC for any special talent waiver on a case-by-case basis and a coach may include this information even though not required):
 - a) Prospective students with a cumulative GPA below a 2.50 (at the time of their Preliminary Evaluation);
 - b) Prospective Students who will need a NCAA/American Athletic Conference waiver to be eligible; or
 - c) Prospective students who are projected to be an Academic Redshirt as per NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.2 (Freshmen) or 14.5.4.3 (2-Year College Transfers).

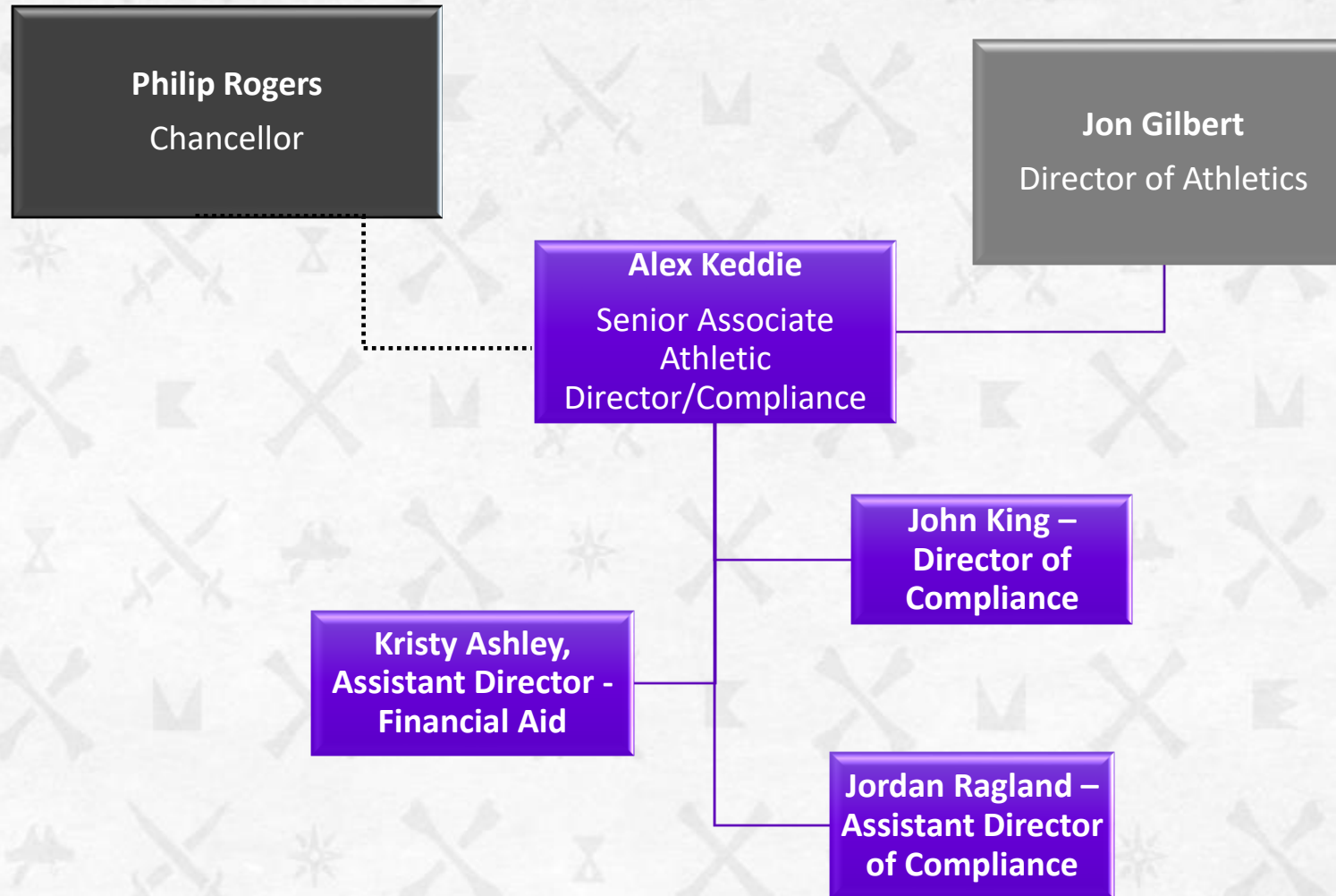
❖ The additional information required is:

 - 1) A written statement from the head coach to justify why ECU should take a risk on the applicant;

- 2) A written statement from the applicant describing his or her academic goals, life plans and any special, mitigating or extenuating circumstances related to the applicant's poor academic record; and
 - 3) A letter from a high school teacher and/or guidance counselor describing the applicant's commitment to academics and his or her belief that the applicant can successfully complete college level work and earn a degree from ECU.
- d) After reviewing the applicant's complete file and supporting documents, the committee will vote on whether to grant the applicant special admission status. The vote requires a majority of the committee for admittance or denial. The Senior Associate AD of Student-Athlete Academic Services does not have a vote but participates to add perspective.
5. The committee's approval or denial is communicated to the Compliance Office and is considered the proper authority for making this admission decision. However, the Chancellor retains the right to overrule all admission decisions.



Overview of Department & Reporting Structure



**BY-LAWS OF
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

The name of this corporation is EAST CAROLINA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC. (hereinafter referred to as the "Foundation"), and its purposes and objects as set forth in part of its Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Secretary of State for the State of North Carolina are as follows:

1. To provide assistance to worthy young men and women seeking an education at EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY. ("The University").
2. To support University programs by providing funds for student athlete scholarships, compensation assistance for coaches and key athletic department staff, construction of athletic-related facilities, the purchase of equipment for such programs and other support of the athletics programs of East Carolina University.
3. To operate and carry out all other programs, activities and endeavors for charitable, educational, literary, or religious and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended and Chapter SSA (the Nonprofit Corporation Act), as amended, of the General Statutes of North Carolina.
4. And to these ends to take and hold by bequest , devise, gift, grant, purchase, lease or otherwise any property, real, personal, tangible or intangible, or any undivided interest therein without limitation as to dollar value; to sell, convey, assign, or otherwise dispose of any such property and to invest, reinvest or deal with the principal or the income thereof in such manner as in the judgment of the Board of Community Directors (or the Executive Committee between meetings of Directors) as will best promote the objects and purposes of the Foundation and The University without limitation, if any, as may be contained in the instrument under which such property is received; these By-Laws and the amendments thereto; the Articles of Incorporation of the Foundation; any Operating Agreement between the Foundation and the University; and the laws applicable thereto.
5. To do any other act or thing incidental to or connected with the foregoing objects and purposes or in the advancement thereof, but not for the pecuniary profit or financial gain of its directors or officers, except as permitted under Section SSA-3-02 of the Nonprofit Corporation Act of North Carolina.

ARTICLE II OFFICES

Section 1. Principal Office. The principal office of the Foundation shall be located at the Ward Sports Medicine Building at East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

Section 2. Registered Office. The registered office of the Foundation shall be located at the address above for the principal office of the Foundation.

Section 3. Other Offices. The Foundation may have offices at such other place, either within or without the State of North Carolina, as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine, or as the affairs of the Foundation may require.

ARTICLE III The Executive Committee

Section 1. General Powers. The business, property and affairs of the Foundation shall be managed by a the Executive Committee, which shall have the power to initiate and approve plans and programs for the promotion of the Athletic Program of East Carolina University; have custody and management of the land, buildings, equipment, securities and all other property of the Foundation; adopt the annual budget of the Foundation; borrow money, raise and disburse funds; invest and re-invest funds of the Foundation; sell, buy and exchange properties and securities of the Foundation, make contracts; appoint an Executive Secretary, and delegate power to appoint employees of the Foundation; recommend, in accordance with University and North Carolina policies, to the Chancellor the compensation of all employees of the Foundation; and perform all other duties and shall have such other powers as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the Foundation.

Section 2. Number. There shall be a governing board with all the rights, powers and responsibilities of a Board of Directors as described pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina and these By-Laws. It shall be called

the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the following: one (1) Executive President; one (1) Executive Vice-President; fifteen (15) Executive Committee members; one (1) Executive Secretary; one (1) Executive Treasurer; the Immediate Past Executive President; and any duly elected Directors Emeritus. The Chancellor of the University, the Faculty Athletics Representative and the Athletics Director shall be ex-officio voting members of the Executive Committee as set out in Article V, Section 1 below. The election of Executive Committee members shall be staggered so that five (5) Executive Committee members shall be elected annually. In addition, a minimum of one active or immediate past Chapter President shall serve on the Executive Committee at all times.

Section 3. Tenure. An individual may be elected up to two consecutive full terms. In the event a member has served for two consecutive terms, or any portion thereof, the individual cannot serve another term for a period of at least one (1) year from the expiration of the previous term.

Section 4. Vacancies. The Executive Committee shall have the power at any time to fill any vacancy among the Executive Committee members, and the Executive Committee member so elected to fill any such vacancy shall serve until the Winter meeting of the Community Directors or until their successors are elected. The selection of a member cannot be done in violation of Article IV, Section 2 above.

Section 5. Directors Emeritus. In addition to the elected members, the Community Chapter Directors may from time to time name members who shall be designated Executive Committee Directors Emeritus. Such members shall serve until their death, resignation or upon a vote of the Chapter Director as set out below. A Director Emeritus shall have all voting powers as if duly elected. To be eligible for such designation, an individual must have served at least two (2) terms as an elected member of the Executive Committee and have exhibited loyal and long-standing efforts, which are notable in their accomplishment, in support of the Foundation and University and their respective goals. At any time, there shall not be more than two (2) individuals serving as Directors Emeritus. Such members may be designated or removed upon the nomination by a Community Chapter Director and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Chapter Directors.

Section 6. Duties. Executive Committee members shall attend all meetings of the Executive Committee and Community Board of Directors and shall also perform such other duties as may be designated to the office by the Executive President or Board of Community Directors.

Section. 7. Election of Executive President, Executive Vice-President and Executive Directors of the Foundation. At the scheduled regular Winter meeting in each calendar year, there shall be held an election to determine the Executive President, Executive Vice-President and Executive Committee Members for the coming year. Nominations for the offices of Executive President, Executive Vice-President and Executive Committee Members may come from a Nominating Committee appointed by the Executive Committee prior to the election. The Nominating Committee must include the Executive President, Executive Vice President, Executive Secretary, a minimum of one currently serving or immediate past Chapter President and other Executive Committee members as appointed by the Executive President. Any individuals nominated by the Nominating Committee for the positions of Executive President, Executive Vice-President or Executive Committee Members of the Foundation shall be placed on a ballot and distributed at least thirty (30) days prior to the regularly scheduled Winter meeting of the Executive Committee. Nominations from the general membership will be solicited prior to the meeting via public notice.

The Executive President of the Foundation will consult regarding the nominating committee's recommendation to the Executive Committee with the Chancellor prior to the regularly scheduled Winter meeting of the Foundation. Nominees will be confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at the Winter meeting of the Foundation.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. Members. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the following: one (1) Executive President; one (1) Executive Vice-President; fifteen (15) Executive Committee members; one (1) Executive Secretary; one (1) Executive Treasurer; the Immediate Past Executive President; and any duly elected Directors Emeritus. The Chancellor of the University, the Faculty Athletics Representative and the Athletics Director shall be ex-officio voting members of the Executive Committee. A minimum of one (1) of the (15) Executive Committee members shall be a currently serving Chapter President.

Section 2. Power. The Executive Committee shall be the administrative body of the Foundation and shall have the power to make policies concerning the operation of the Foundation. . The Executive Committee shall have the authority to appoint members to standing as well as ad hoc committees. Standing committees include:

- (1) Advisory Committee
- (2) Audit Committee
- (3) Compensation and Personnel Committee

- (4) Investment Committee
- (5) Nominating Committee
- (6) Planned Giving Committee
- (7) Real Estate Committee

The membership of committees shall not be limited to individuals who are members of the Executive Committee or currently serving or immediate past Chapter Presidents if they bring special qualifications to the job. The Audit Committee members shall include the Executive President, the Executive Vice-President, and such others as may be appropriate to its work.

Section 3. Duties. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to collaborate with the Executive Secretary in the preparation and supervision of budgets, annual statements, audits and such other duties.

Section 4. Meetings. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held at the call of the Executive President who shall designate the time, place and purpose of the meeting and shall give notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting to the members of the Executive Committee. A quorum shall consist of nine (9) members.

Section 5. Action Without Meeting. Action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee may be taken without a physical meeting by way of a conference call, telephone ballot, written/telecopier, or electronic/internet ballot to all members of the Executive Committee. The action must be evidenced by written responses signed by each voting member attesting to such action, or documented in the minutes by the Executive Secretary for any telephone ballot or meeting held by way of conference call, or electronic/internet method and filed with the Foundation records.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers General. The Officers of the Foundation shall be an Executive President, an Executive Vice-President, an Executive Secretary, and an Executive Treasurer. The Executive President and the Executive Vice-President shall be elected by the Executive Committee at the scheduled Winter meeting. The Executive President and the Executive Vice-President may serve for multiple one year terms.

Section 2. Vacancies. The Executive Committee shall have the power at any time to fill vacancies among the officers, and officers so elected to fill such vacancies shall serve until the Winter meeting of the Community Directors or until their successors are elected.

Section 3. Executive President. The Executive President shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee; shall appoint the members *of* and chairpersons *of* all committees and shall be an ex-officio member of all such committees; and shall assign such papers as may be directed by the Executive Committee. The Executive President shall make such reports and recommendations to the Executive Committee at any regular or special meetings concerning the work and the affairs of the Foundation as in his or her judgment are necessary; may require such reports from the Executive Treasurer and Executive Secretary as in his or her judgment are necessary, and shall perform such other duties as may be incidental to the office.

Section 4. Executive Vice-President. The Executive Vice-President shall perform the duties of the Executive President in case of his or her absence, resignation or inability to act. He or she shall, also, perform such other duties as may be designated to the office by the Executive President or Board of Community Directors.

Section 5. Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary as appointed under Article VII shall serve as Executive Secretary of the Foundation and the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary shall issue in writing all notices of meetings of the Executive Committee: notify individuals elected to office or Executive Committee; keep complete records of the meetings of the Executive Committee, including an accurate record of attendance of members; shall mail such other notices as may be directed by Executive Committee; shall be custodian of all records of the Foundation, except such records and papers as shall be kept by the Executive Treasurer as herein provided; shall sign such papers as may be required by his or her office or as directed by the Executive Committee; and shall perform such other duties as may be incidental to the office.

Section 6. Executive Treasurer. The Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance of the University or a designee approved by the Executive Committee shall serve as the Treasurer of the Foundation. The Treasurer shall oversee custody of all monies and securities of the Foundation and shall oversee the maintenance of regular books. All money of the Foundation shall be deposited into such depositories as shall be selected by the Directors. He shall ascertain through information provided by the Executive Secretary, Foundation administrative staff and University financial staff that a full and accurate account is made of all monies received and paid on the accounts administered by the Foundation. He or she shall receive and have custody of all deeds, securities, notes, contracts, and other financial papers of the Foundation and shall make reports thereof to the Executive President as required. He or she shall cause the books of account *of* the Foundation to be audited at least once annually, and shall cause to be prepared, and shall present each year, a comprehensive financial statement including the report of the auditor. He or

she shall sign such papers as may be required by the office or as may be directed by the Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as may be incidental to the office.

Section 7. Immediate Past Executive President. The immediate Past Executive President of the Foundation shall *serve* as an advisor to the Executive President of the Foundation and to the members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any member of the Executive Committee who has a direct or indirect financial interest in any contract or transaction with the Foundation must disclose such interest to the Executive Committee. The member shall not participate in discussions regarding the subject matter disclosed and shall not vote on any action relating to said subject matter. Further, he or she shall sign and have filed in the Foundation Office a Conflict of Interest Statement, which shall be updated annually.

ARTICLE VII EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Section 1. Appointment. The Executive Committee shall recommend to the Chancellor an individual to serve as Executive Secretary of the Foundation..

Section 2. Duties. The Executive Secretary shall manage the affairs, direct the work of all employees of the Foundation, subject to, and in accordance with, the directions of the Executive Committee; shall prepare budgets of expenses for the approval of the Executive Committee; and shall be authorized to incur expenses in accordance with the approved budget, or as directed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Executive Committee unless otherwise directed by the Executive Committee and shall from time to time make reports of the work and the affairs of the organization to the Executive President and the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned to him by the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary and all other employees of the Foundation shall be bonded as determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS. AND FUNDS

Section 1. Contracts. The Executive Committee may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Foundation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these By-Laws, to enter into any contract or execute and

deliver any instrument, including the demise of assets, accept gifts and perform any other act or execute any document in the name of and on behalf of the Foundation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2. Checks, Drafts, Etc. All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Foundation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Foundation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Executive Committee. In the absence of such determination by the Executive Committee, such instruments shall be signed by the Executive Treasurer or Executive President of the Foundation.

Section 3. Deposits. All funds of the Foundation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Foundation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Executive Committee may select.

Section 4. PCI Compliance. Acceptance of all credit card payments (commonly referenced as merchant accounts) or other electronic payments of that nature shall be done with all due diligence and at the least in compliance with the National PCI standards. Appropriate compliance shall be done in coordination with the University Compliance Committee on such standards.

Section 5. Gifts. The Executive Committee may accept on behalf of the Foundation any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purpose or for any special purpose of the Foundation. The Executive Committee shall have the power on behalf of the Foundation to decline any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise when in its opinion the acceptance or proposed special purpose shall not be in the best interest of the Foundation or the University.

Section 6. Indebtedness. No indebtedness of the Foundation shall be incurred other than in the normal course of business, except as may be approved by resolution adopted by a majority of the Executive Committee. Any or all of such indebtedness may be represented by notes, debentures, bonds or other securities, either unsecured or secured by or issued under a mortgage, trust indenture, or otherwise, and may be issued at such times and upon such terms as the Executive Committee shall determine in collaboration with the Director of Athletics, the Chancellor and the Vice President of Finance for the University. Any indebtedness of any nature shall comply with the terms of any Operating Agreement then in existence between the Foundation and the University.

ARTICLE IX BOOKS AND RECORDS

The Foundation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account, and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its donors, the Executive Committee, and all committees having any of the authority of the Executive Committee, and shall keep in the registered or principal office a record giving the names and addresses of the members. All books and records of the Foundation may be inspected by any donor, or his agent or attorney, for any purpose at any reasonable time with the exception of individual giving records identifying donors including those specifically requesting anonymity.

ARTICLE X FISCAL YEAR

The Foundation shall be on a fiscal year beginning July 1, of each year and ending June 30, of each year.

ARTICLE XI SEAL

The Executive Committee shall provide a corporate seal, which shall be in the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Foundation

ARTICLE XII SCHOLARSHIPS

All scholarships awarded by the Foundation to students; any other relationships between the Foundation and students as well as relationships with employees; agents and any other representatives of East Carolina University shall be in conformity with the rules and regulations of East Carolina University; The National Collegiate Athletic Association and those conferences in which the University's athletics program may from time to time participate.

ARTICLE XIII INDEMNIFICATION

Any person who at any time serves or has served as a member of the Executive Committee or officer of the Foundation, or in any such capacity at the request of the Foundation for any other corporation, partnership, joint venture trust or other enterprise, shall have a right to be indemnified by the Foundation against (a) reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees actually and necessarily incurred by such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, whether or not brought by or on behalf of the

Foundation, seeking to hold such person liable by reason of the fact that he or she is or was acting in such capacity, and (b) reasonable payments made by such person in-satisfaction of any judgment, money decree, fine, penalty or settlement for which he may have become liable in any such action, suit or proceeding; provided however, that the right of indemnification provided herein shall not extend to any willful misconduct or criminal acts on the part of any such person.

The Executive Committee of the Foundation shall take all such action as may be necessary and appropriate to authorize the Foundation to pay the indemnification required by this Article, including without limitation, making a good faith evaluation of the manner in which a claimant for indemnity acted, based upon the standards set forth in the preceding paragraph, and the reasonable amount of indemnity due him.

Any person who, at any time after the adoption of this Article, serves or has served in any of the aforesaid capacities for or on behalf of the Foundation shall be deemed to be doing so or to have done so in reliance upon, and as consideration for, the right of indemnification provided herein. Such right shall inure to the benefit of the legal representatives of any such person and shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which such person may be entitled apart from the provision of this Article.

ARTICLE XIV CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Section 1. Number, Term and Qualification. Chapter Presidents shall be nominated and elected by members of each local chapter according to each chapter's process. All selections will be recommended to and confirmed by a vote of the Executive Committee of the Foundation at the Winter meeting of the Executive Committee. The number of Chapter Presidents shall be equal to the number of active Pirate Club Chapters. Chapter Presidents must be an active member of the Pirate Club and in good standing as determined by the Executive Committee. Chapter President's serve on one (1) year renewable terms and must be confirmed each year.

Section 2. Duties. Under the direction of the Executive Committee and in accordance with Foundation staff Chapter Presidents will serve as the volunteer leader for their assigned chapters. They will be responsible for the following:

- (1) Maintain a detailed financial record for all assigned chapter activities in accordance with the standards set by the Executive Committee.
- (2) Serve on any boards and / or committees as requested by the Executive Committee

- (3) Be a positive representative of the Foundation, ECU Athletics and East Carolina University at all time.
- (4) Assist staff with fundraising and friend raising in assigned chapter.

Section 3. Removal. Any Chapter President who fails to fulfill the responsibilities of his or her position shall be *removed* from office by the community chapter or the Executive Committee by a majority vote.

Section 4. Replacement. The community chapter shall have the power to fill vacancies which occur by reason of death, resignation, or otherwise. Selections will be confirmed by the Executive Committee by a majority vote at the next scheduled or called Executive Committee meeting.

ARTICLE XV DISPOSITION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

It is the intent of the Foundation that it have perpetual existence and that all funds be managed according to donor intent. In the event of dissolution of the Foundation, either voluntary or involuntary, all assets and property which remain after the discharge of the Foundation's liabilities and unless otherwise designated by the donor of an asset shall be paid over or distributed by the Foundation's Executive Committee to University's Athletics Department pursuant to regulations of the University of North Carolina. This provision shall continue beyond the dissolution of the Foundation.

ARTICLE XVI AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended, replaced or new By-Laws may be adopted by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee at any regular or special meeting, providing notice of the proposed change is given in the notice of the meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XVII EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon adoption by the Executive Committee present and voting, these By-Laws shall become effective.

Jason M. Batt, Executive Secretary

I attest that these By-Laws were approved at the East Carolina University Educational Foundation Executive Committee meeting conducted on September 25, 2015.

AGENDA ITEM**IV. Report on Waivers for Exceeding 120-Credit Hour LimitsChris Buddo**
Interim Provost and
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Situation: The UNC Board of Governors requests that each institution's board of trustees review and report promptly on the continued need, if any, for waivers granted by the board of trustees for the award of undergraduate degrees requiring more than 120 semester credit hours.

Background: In 2018, the Board of Governors amended Section 400.1.5 of the UNC Policy Manual to cap at 120 the number of semester credit hours required to award undergraduate degrees. Waivers by boards of trustees are allowed for compelling reasons. Compelling reasons include programmatic accreditation standards, licensure requirements, and other state, federal, or professional regulations. Following the program review in 2018, two programs from ECU requested the 120-credit hour waiver: the BSN in nursing and the BS in engineering.

Assessment: After reassessing ECU's program offerings, the same programs (BSN in nursing and the BS in engineering) will require a waiver.

Our current BSN program is 125 hours, having previously received an exception to the 120-semester-hour limit. Our BSN program is updating course requirements to meet the demands of the accrediting organizations for the program. Though the College of Nursing has been able to decrease semester hours from 125 to 122, requiring 122 semester credit hours is necessary to avoid negative impact on the program's ability to meet national standards and graduate well-prepared nurses in an increasingly demanding workforce. ECU is committed to high-level, quality education that prepares students to pass the national registered nurse (RN) licensure exam and allows graduates to engage every day in life and death situations.

The BS in engineering requires a minimum of 125 semester credit hours. Maintaining the 125 semester credit hour minimum will prepare students with a sufficient depth of knowledge in math, science and engineering, and is in line with the number of credit hours at peer institutions. Maintaining the current credit hour requirements will also avoid negative impact on the program's ability to meet national standards and graduate well-prepared engineers.

Action: This item is for information only.



**Request for Exception to 120-Credit-Hour Maximum for Undergraduate Degree
Regulation Related to Fostering Undergraduate Student Success, UNC Policy Manual 400.1.5[R]**

Program Title Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Designation (BA, BS, BSBA) BSN
Academic Home Unit College of Nursing; Department of Baccalaureate Education
6-Digit CIP Code 51.3801 Teacher licensure code(s), if any N/A
Current Total Credit Hours 125 Proposed Total Credit Hours 122

Contact Name Dr. Bimbola Akintade
Telephone 252-744-6372 Email akintadeb22@ecu.edu

Instructions:

- Complete one Request for Exception form for each degree program using Option 2, 3, or 4.
- By July 1, submit form to Dr. Ying Zhou at zhouy14@ecu.edu, with copy to Ms. Karen Summey at summeyk@ecu.edu.

JUSTIFICATION:

1. We are requesting an exception to the 120-credit-hour policy based on the following; choose all that apply:

- ☒ Programmatic/specialized accreditation standards
- ☐ Licensure requirements
- ☐ State, federal, or professional regulations
- ☒ Current review of similar, high quality programs exceeding 120 hours

2. Develop a narrative including the justification(s) above:

The nursing profession is critical to the health and well-being of individuals and communities. As the scope of healthcare continues to evolve, the role of nurses has become more complex, requiring advanced skills, knowledge, and decision-making capabilities. It is imperative that the baccalaureate nursing curriculum aligns with current standards and ensures that nurses are equipped to provide safe, competent, and compassionate care. In this context, the justification for allowing increased curriculum hours in baccalaureate nursing programs is grounded in the demands of modern healthcare practice, the evolving role of nurses, and the need for a more comprehensive educational foundation.

Nursing programs must adhere to the standards set forth by accrediting bodies, such as the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). These bodies continuously update their standards to reflect changes in healthcare and nursing practice (<https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/CCNE/CCNE-Education-Standards-2024.pdf> and <https://www.nursingworld.org/ana/about-ana/standards>). In recent years, there has been an increasing emphasis on competency-based education, which focuses not only on theoretical knowledge but also on the ability to apply that knowledge in real-world settings.

We would like to request an exception to the 120-semester credit hour limit for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. Our current BSN program is 125 hours, having previously received an exception to the 120-semester-hour limit. Our BSN program is updating course requirements to meet the demands of the accrediting organizations for our BSN program. Though we have been able to decrease our previous semester hours from 125 to 122, we feel that removing or altering the curriculum hours we have voted on and that have been approved by the NC Board of Nursing would decrease the quality of our program.

Safe, high-quality patient care is the cornerstone of nursing practice. We have carefully designed the course content and designated semester hours to ensure that students receive content that allows them to demonstrate required competencies, pass the national licensure examination (NCLEX), and prepare them for safe nursing practice.

REVIEW OF SIMILAR PROGRAMS:

3. Conduct a review of similar, high-quality programs in the field, and respond to the following:

a. List similar programs in the UNC system:

Programs in UNC System

Institution	Program Name	CIP Code	Credit Hours
Appalachian State University	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	51.3801	126
North Carolina Central University	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	51.3801	124
University of North Carolina at Wilmington	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	51.3801	124

b. Are the above programs seeking exceptions? If yes, are you collaborating with them to seek exceptions?

__According to the program websites, their semester hours are approved and accredited.__

c. List other similar, high-quality programs below: N/A

Other NC Programs outside UNC System

Institution	Program Name	CIP Code (if available)	Credit Hours

Authorized signatures:

Unit chair (signing on behalf of voting faculty) Jeanne E. Martin, PhD, RN, CNE

School Director (if applicable) N/A

College Dean _____

After initial submission by July 1, all requests will be reviewed by the Academic Council.



**Request for Exception to 120-Credit-Hour Maximum for an Undergraduate Degree
Regulation Related to Fostering Undergraduate Student Success, UNC Policy Manual 400.1.5[R]**

All requests will be reviewed by the Academic Council.

Program Title Engineering Degree Designation (BA, BS, BSBA) BS
 Academic Home Unit Department of Engineering, College of Engineering & Technology
 6-Digit CIP Code 14.0101 Teacher licensure code(s), if any _____
 Current Total Credit Hours 125 Proposed Total Credit Hours 125

Contact Name Dr. Harry J. Ploehn (Dean)
 Telephone (252) 328-9604 Email ploehnh17@ecu.edu

Instructions:

- Complete one Request for Exception form for each degree program selecting Option 2 or 3.
- By July 1, submit form to Dr. Ying Zhou at zhouy14@ecu.edu, with copy to Ms. Karen Summey at summeyk@ecu.edu.

JUSTIFICATION:

1. We are requesting an exception to the 120-credit-hour policy based on the following; check all that apply:

- ☒ a. Current review of similar, high quality programs exceeding 120 hours; complete questions 2 and 3
- ☒ b. Programmatic/specialized accreditation standards*
- ☐ c. Licensure requirements*
- ☐ d. State, federal, or professional regulations*
- ☐ e. Other; please specify

* For options b-e, complete question 2 and submit additional documentation to support your request; e.g. specialized accreditation standards or published regulations.

*** Save file before submitting**

2. Develop a narrative to support the justification(s) above:

See attached narrative.

REVIEW OF SIMILAR PROGRAMS:

3. Conduct a review of similar, high quality programs in the field, and respond to the following:

a. List [similar programs](#) in the UNC system:

Programs in UNC System

Institution	Program Name	CIP Code	Credit Hours
NC State University	Engineering (various disciplines)	14.xxxx	122-128
Western Carolina University	Engineering (general)	14.0101	126
UNC-Charlotte	Mechanical Engineering	14.1901	120

b. Are the above programs seeking exceptions? If yes, are you collaborating with them to seek exceptions?

Yes. We collaborated on the original request with NCSU and WCU.

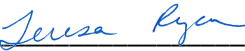
c. List other similar, high quality programs [in NC](#) below:

Other NC Programs outside UNC System

Institution	Program Name	CIP Code (if available)	Credit Hours
Campbell University	Engineering (general with mechanical concentration)	14.0101	132
Virginia Tech University	Engineering (various disciplines)	14.xxxx	125-129
Clemson University	Engineering (various disciplines)	14.xxxx	125-129

Authorized signatures:

DocuSigned by:



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Unit chair (signing on behalf of voting faculty)

4/1/2025 | 2:55 PM EDT

School Director (if applicable) _____

DocuSigned by:


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College Dean

4/1/2025 | 3:45 PM EDT

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ECU B.S. in Engineering: Continuation of the 120-Credit-Hour Maximum Waiver

Since the 2018-19 academic year, the B.S. in Engineering (BSE) degree program at East Carolina University (ECU) has received a waiver from the UNC System policy mandating a 120-semester hour maximum for all baccalaureate degree programs. The circumstances justifying this exception have not changed. The faculty of the Department of Engineering and leadership of the College of Engineering and Technology continue to support an exception to the UNC System mandate and maintain the current 125 credit hour requirement for the BSE curriculum.

The justification for this exception (prepared in Fall 2018 and largely reiterated below) was developed in collaboration with the College of Engineering at NC State University (Associate Dean Jerome Lavelle) and the College of Engineering and Technology at Western Carolina University (then Dean Jeffrey Ray). In 2018-19, NCSU submitted an exception request for all their ABET-accredited engineering programs, maintaining them at their current levels ranging from 122 to 127 credit hours. Likewise, the WCU CET requested an exception to keep their BSE program at 126 credit hours. The chancellors at UNC-C and NC A&T reduced all their engineering programs to 120 credit hours without exception. However, total credit hour count alone does not provide a full and fair comparison among UNC System programs or with other comparable engineering programs at private universities in North Carolina (Duke, Campbell).

Continuation of this exception is justified by (1) student success considerations based on review of similar, high-quality programs, and (2) considerations based on programmatic and accreditation standards.

Student Success Considerations. Engineering is a profession like Nursing, Law, and Medicine. Like the BS in Nursing, the BS in Engineering (BSE) degree is a professional practice degree: graduates are expected to practice the profession of engineering in their entry-level jobs. BSE degree programs are expected to prepare students to pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam, the first step toward professional licensure overseen by state boards like the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers & Surveyors (<http://www.ncbels.org>). Although engineering employment does not require licensure, employers expect engineering graduates to have sufficient depth of knowledge in math, science, and engineering to succeed in engineering practice. The competitiveness of our students in the engineering job market, and their eventual success as engineering graduates, depend on their depth of knowledge in math, science, and engineering.

Table 1 (next page) compares credit hour requirements for engineering degree programs at ECU and other universities. All engineering programs in the UNC system have similar math and science requirements stemming from ABET accreditation criteria (see below). For engineering and related technical courses, nationally ranked engineering programs at NCSU (such as the BS in Mechanical Engineering) typically require 75-77 credit hours. BSE programs at UNC-Charlotte and NC A&T require 72 credit hours of engineering courses. ECU's BSE program requires 66 credit hours of engineering courses.

Further reduction of the number of engineering credit hours in ECU's BSE program would put our graduates at a competitive disadvantage compared to engineering graduates from NCSU and other nationally-ranked programs such as Georgia Tech (128–131 hours), Virginia Tech (126–129), and Clemson (125–129). Additionally, Campbell University requires 132 hours for its BSE, highlighting how competitive peer institutions maintain robust credit hour expectations. Ongoing assessments by our Engineering Advisory Board and our ABET accreditors continue to affirm that our students are well-prepared for engineering practice due to the program's unique, four-year, five-course "spiral" curriculum in engineering design and

project management, which culminates in an acclaimed senior Capstone design course supported by industry partners. This spiral design curriculum also builds and reinforces students' "soft skills" (teamwork, writing, presentations, and customer focus) that are increasingly sought by employers. The BSE curriculum also features five-course concentrations in any of six disciplinary areas to provide some disciplinary depth. This program design has been proven successful in producing generalist engineering graduates who have been highly recruited by local industry and have succeeded in highly ranked engineering graduate programs (placements in 8 of the top 30 USN&WR-ranked engineering graduate schools over the last ten years).

Table 1. Comparison of credit hour requirements for BS Engineering degree programs¹. Total hours equals the sum of hours for general education requirements², foundational math and science courses, and engineering requirements (including both core and technical/engineering electives).

Within the UNC System	Total Hours	Math & Science	Engr. & Tech	Gen Ed ²
ECU	125	32	66	30
NCSU ¹	126	30	77	19
WCU ¹	126	36	60	30
NC A&T ¹	120	30	72	18
UNC-C ¹	120	30	72	18
Outside the UNC System				
Duke ³	113 (est.) ³			
Campbell	132			
Virginia Tech	125-129			
Clemson	125-129			
Georgia Tech	128-131			

1. Comparison of BS degrees in mechanical engineering or general engineering with mechanical engineering concentrations. These programs were all ABET-accredited in their previous review (before reduction to 120 hours for NC A&T and UNC-C). Values updated to reflect 2025 curriculum data. Sources: Official university catalogs and degree audits.

2. General Education credit hours excluding math and science hours fulfilled by the engineering curriculum.

3. Duke's undergraduate catalog shows that the engineering curriculum requires a minimum of 34 courses. Credit hours have been estimated based on the constituent courses.

Given the need to satisfy accreditation requirements in math and science (see below) as well as ECU's general education requirements, any reduction in engineering credits in the BSE below 125 hours would be difficult to accomplish. Reduction of engineering credits would disrupt a curriculum regarded as successful by our accreditors, industry recruiters, and our Engineering Advisory Board. It would also hurt the competitiveness of ECU Engineering students in the engineering job market and ultimately threaten the long-term "student success" of ECU graduates in engineering practice.

Programmatic and Accreditation Standards. The UNC System 120-credit-hour mandate promotes student success by ensuring that degree programs eliminate non-essential course requirements, thus reducing time-to-graduation and increasing graduation rates. Engineering degree programs have been under pressure for many years to reduce total credit hour requirements while maintaining program quality in the eyes of diverse stakeholders. Engineering programs must have technical depth to meet accreditation standards and employer expectations. They must also have breadth, embodied in general education requirements, to meet the programmatic standards set by the university community.

ABET, the accreditor for all US engineering programs, does not mandate total credit hour requirements or inclusion of specific courses in engineering curricula. However, ABET rigorously enforces several specific

criteria for engineering programs.* ABET Criterion 5 states that engineering curricula must include “one year of a combination of college level mathematics and basic sciences” (generally 30-32 credit hours), “one and one-half years of engineering topics” (45-48 hours), and “a general education component... consistent with the program and institution objectives.” ABET Criterion 4 also mandates the development and use of a continuous improvement process to assess, evaluate, and improve courses, curricula, and student outcomes. ABET continuous improvement processes generally involve outside stakeholders including employers and industry advisory boards.

Table 1 shows that all engineering programs in the UNC system include at least 30-32 credit hours of math and science courses in accord with ABET Criterion 5. Engineering programs in the UNC system include significantly more engineering credit hours than the minimum mandated by ABET Criterion 5. This reflects student success considerations and employer expectations, reinforced by many cycles of continuous improvement processes involving employers and industry advisory boards. Universities vary in the breadth of their general education requirements and flexibility in their implementation.

Prior to 1995, engineering degree programs nationwide typically required 132-138 total credit hours. In 1995, the NC legislature mandated reductions to a maximum of 128 credit hours for all undergraduate degree programs. Since then, engineering degree programs at NCSU have limited their general education course requirements to 17-21 credit hours (not counting math and science courses fulfilling engineering program requirements) to maintain the levels of math, science, and engineering content consistent with their mission, employer expectations, and student success objectives. The chancellors at UNC-Charlotte and NC A&T recently mandated reduction of their BSE programs to 120 credit hours; these programs responded by limiting their general education requirements to 18 credit hours. WCU has requested an exception to remain at 126 credit hours, presumably because they wish to preserve the breadth of their general education requirement, nor sacrifice depth in their engineering content.

ECU’s general education program (GEP) requires 40 credit hours, of which 10 are fulfilled by math (3) and science (7) courses required by the BSE. The GEP also includes an additional 3-credit elective that may be fulfilled by a math course. Last year, Faculty Senate approved a change in GEP rules that will enable BSE students to use a second, required math course to fulfill the GEP elective requirement. This will permit us to reduce the BSE program to 125 credit hours.

Programmatic considerations at ECU argue against further reduction of the BSE program below 125 credit hours. Reducing math, science, or engineering content would seriously impair our students’ ability to pass the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, the first step toward professional engineering licensure. It would also reduce the competitiveness of our graduates in an engineering job market expecting technical depth in math, science, and engineering, as well as soft skills such as writing, public speaking, and teamwork (developed in our unique spiral design curriculum). Reducing general education requirements would limit our graduates’ broad understanding of our history, culture, and the challenges facing our society – and the role engineering professionals must play in addressing these challenges.

In summary, reducing ECU’s BS in Engineering degree program to 120 credit hours would likely have a significant negative impact on long-term student success. For this reason, we respectfully request continuation of the exception to the 120-Credit-Hour Maximum for an Undergraduate Degree per “Regulation Related to Fostering Undergraduate Student Success, UNC Policy Manual 400.1.5[R]”.

* <http://www.abet.org/accreditation/accreditation-criteria/criteria-for-accrediting-engineering-programs-2018-2019/>

To: Chairs, Boards of Trustees

CC: Peter Hans, President, UNC System
Chancellors
Wade Maki, Chair, Faculty Assembly
Campus Board Professionals

From: Wendy Murphy, Chair, Board of Governors
Terry Hutchens, Chair, Committee on Educational Planning

Re: Report on Waivers for Exceeding 120-Credit Hour Limits

Date: February 17, 2025

We ask that your board of trustees review *at your next regularly-scheduled board meeting* and report to us promptly on the continued need, if any, for waivers granted by your board of trustees for the award of undergraduate degrees requiring more than 120 semester credit hours. Exhibit A reflects available statistics on existing waivers.

We also ask you to identify any undergraduate degree programs that require more than 120 semester credit hours *without* having obtained the necessary waiver from your board.

Membership of boards of trustees has changed since 2018. Therefore, we write briefly on the context for our request. In 2018, the Board of Governors amended [Section 400.1.5](#) of the UNC Policy Manual to cap at 120 the number of semester credit hours required to award undergraduate degrees. Waivers by boards of trustees are allowed for compelling reasons. Compelling reasons include: programmatic accreditation standards; licensure requirements; and other state, federal, or professional regulations. See [Section 400.1.5\[R\]](#) of the UNC Policy Manual.

At the time the 120-credit hour cap was imposed, campus approaches varied—some programs required as many as 134 semester credit hours for an undergraduate degree. Others required less. The 2018 policy change imposed system-wide structure where none had existed.

Since 2018, the Board of Governors, the System Office, and campus administrations have redoubled efforts to lower the whole cost of education. Consistent with the UNC Strategic Plan, few stones have been left unturned on ways to drive down the costs of a college degree. That effort, among many, has resulted in

the UNC System keeping in-state, undergraduate tuition flat for eight successive years.

Sound policymaking requires a reassessment of the need for these waivers. Once a waiver has been granted, there appears to be no formal mechanism to revisit periodically the continued need for that waiver. We do not presume that your reassessment will prompt discontinuance of any waivers. However, the 2018 policy was passed over seven years ago, and the drive to continually improve our operations counsels a degree-by-degree reassessment of the need for these waivers.

Separately, if programs exist where a needed waiver has not been obtained, we need to know that, too. Therefore, we ask you to look into these matters and report back to us.

Please lead your boards in undertaking the reassessment we have requested *at your next regularly-scheduled meeting*. You will need to work with your chancellors and chief academic officers. Please assess whether compelling reasons for current waivers still exist and whether there are other programs for which a waiver is needed. Promptly following your meeting, please make a written report to us detailing why your board has concluded that each existing waiver does or does not remain necessary and identifying non-compliant programs for which a waiver is needed.

Thank you for your work to continually improve the University of North Carolina. It takes a “whole of System” effort to maintain the University’s status as the best public university system in the United States. If in the course of this work, you have other ideas on ways the System can improve to further that goal, please let us know.

EXHIBIT A

UNC System 120 Credit Hour Exempted Programs

Count and Percent of Exempt Programs			
Institution	Count of Programs	Count of Exemptions	% Exempt
Appalachian State University	78	2	2.6%
Elizabeth City State University	27	0	0.0%
East Carolina University	80	2	2.5%
Fayetteville State University	36	2	5.6%
NC Agricultural and Technical State University	59	3	5.1%
North Carolina Central University	35	5	14.3%
NC State University	91	19	20.9%
UNC Asheville	32	0	0.0%
UNC-Chapel Hill	72	10	13.9%
UNC Charlotte	71	1	1.4%
UNC Greensboro	66	2	3.0%
UNC Pembroke	37	0	0.0%
UNC Wilmington	57	3	5.3%
UNC School of the Arts	5	1	20.0%
Western Carolina University	66	10	15.2%
Winston-Salem State University	34	1	2.9%
UNC System	846	61	7.2%

AGENDA ITEM

V. Closed Session Dave Fussell
Committee Chair

Situation: The committee requests to go into closed session to consider personnel related matters.

Background: It is the policy of the State of North Carolina that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Assessment: The committee will go into closed session:

- To prevent the disclosure of confidential information under N.C. General Statutes §126-22 to §126-30 (personnel information) and the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; and
- To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, or appointment of prospective and/or current employees and/or to hear or investigate a complaint or grievance by or against one or more employees
- To consult with an attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the Committee.

Action: This item requires a vote by the committee.