

From Chancellor Ballard

10-2-12
Faculty Senate mtg.

UNC: Our Time, Our Future

North Carolina's long-term economic competitiveness will depend on its ability to develop and retain the talent needed to drive innovation. The bar of global expectations is rising, and economic data clearly demonstrate that more highly educated workers earn more on average and are less likely to be unemployed. The University of North Carolina is committed to help increase educational attainment levels in North Carolina, in accord with our State's changing workforce needs and shifting demographics. Success will require that we adapt to serve students of varying ages, backgrounds, and educational pathways. In this era of limited resources, it also will require a heightened focus on performance and accountability.

1. Set Degree Attainment Goals Responsive to State Needs

- ✓ Work with business and other State leaders to develop degree attainment goals (by level and field) that are responsive to current and future workforce needs and the State's changing demographics.
- ✓ Assess degree offerings in the context of current workforce requirements and anticipated State needs.
- ✓ Develop and implement a plan to increase graduation rates among community college transfers, individuals with some college credit, and those seeking to earn a new or different degree. Also improve access and support for veterans and active military personnel.

2. Strengthen Academic Quality

- ✓ Continue to strengthen standards for admission and University policies governing satisfactory academic progress.
- ✓ Increase the focus on preparing graduates with the core competencies needed to succeed.
- ✓ Improve academic advising to reduce enrolled time to degree.
- ✓ Identify most effective ways to assess and assure student learning.
- ✓ Enhance use of technology in the classroom and in distance education opportunities.

3. Serve the People of North Carolina

- ✓ Leverage UNC expertise and resources to make North Carolina more globally competitive.
- ✓ Expand basic, applied and translational research, particularly in areas that align with the State's economic strengths and priorities. Help campuses streamline and grow the commercialization and/or translation of University research.
- ✓ Provide improved preparation, support and professional development for PK-12 teachers.
- ✓ Help meet the growing healthcare needs of the State through research, training, and outreach.
- ✓ Utilize cultural resources to strengthen North Carolina's creative economy.

4. Maximize Efficiencies

- ✓ Continue ongoing academic program review to eliminate unnecessary duplication and low-productivity programs.
- ✓ Develop cost-effective tools and collaborative strategies to broaden convenient access to online courses and other distance education programs across the University and State.
- ✓ Encourage and implement more shared services in areas where costs can be reduced and services improved.
- ✓ Strengthen space utilization practices

5. Ensure an Accessible and Financially Stable University

- ✓ Continue to embrace the State's Constitutional mandate of low tuition and fees.
- ✓ Implement a balanced approach to enrollment and performance-based funding.
- ✓ Identify appropriate, viable, and sustainable sources for financial aid.
- ✓ Enhance private fundraising, other external funding support, and private partnerships.
- ✓ Develop plan to address current and future capital and repair and renovation-needs.