



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

List of needs for early in the 2021 session

Building Reserves

In addition to our larger building reserves ask, the UNC System is also requesting \$3,985,459 NR in FY 2020-21 for four Connect NC Bond buildings coming online this fiscal year. There is a need to move a bill early in the session, to fund these four unfunded Connect NC Bond building openings in FY 2021 at ECSU (Moore Hall), UNCC (Sciences Building), UNCSA (Performance Place Renovation), and WCU (Apodaca Science Building).

Institute Efficiencies to Respond to the Impacts of COVID:

The UNC System needs authority for additional flexibilities to implement a number of cost savings initiatives. The goal would be to run a bill that is enacted prior to the end of February.

1. Support additional HR flexibilities

The UNC System needs additional tools to address the 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.

These flexibilities are urgent needs that can minimize the harm to the University by spreading the impacts of potential cuts over an extended period of time.

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. Increasing the carryforward authority would empower chancellors to find savings and reinvest those savings at their institution.

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.