



A Process for Determining

“How UNC Can Best Serve North Carolina Over the Next Twenty Years”

Proposal

The University of North Carolina is dedicated to the service of North Carolina and its people.¹ In order to efficiently and effectively fulfill its mission of instruction, scholarship, and public service in the 21st century, the University should proactively anticipate and identify the needs facing our state over the next twenty years and, consistent with its mission, develop and implement responses.

Process

UNC should engage in an 18-month effort to determine how it can best fulfill its mission to the state over the next twenty years. This would be accomplished with the oversight of the UNC Board of Governors through a four-part process:

- 1) ***Preparation*** -- February – July 2007
Gather information from campuses about how they are currently responding to the needs of their region and the state; conduct internal review of existing resources; synthesize previous reports and studies; report findings.
- 2) ***Assessment*** -- August 2007 – January 2008
Meet with business, nonprofit, community, policy, and governmental leaders in each of the state’s regions to hear from them what they need from UNC over the next twenty years; report findings.
- 3) ***Response*** -- February 2008 – May 2008
Develop a response to needs of the state by UNC and each campus consistent with UNC’s mission.
- 4) ***Implementation*** -- June 2008 – January 2012
Campuses fully implement responses by integrating them into campus missions, programs, and curriculum, and assessing progress toward goals.

¹ N.C.G.S. 116-1(b)

Participants

Several groups would be responsible for leading this work:

- The **UNC Board of Governors** would oversee the process, ensuring that the work is appropriately focused and stays on mission, and participating in campus-related work and meetings with community groups. The Board would have final approval of all recommendations.
- **Campuses** would form work groups to analyze past responses to the state's needs, determine campus capacity to respond going forward, and to follow, inform, react to and respond to the findings of the Commission. Campus participation would include administration, faculty, and students.
- A **Commission**, a group of statewide business, government and nonprofit leaders, including members of the Board of Governors, would be charged with learning “what the people of North Carolina need from their University over the next twenty years” and making recommendations to the Board of Governors.
- **Faculty** would provide both research and advice to the Commission through a **Scholars Council**. This Council would synthesize previous studies, research relevant issues and trends, develop focused questions for regional meetings, attend meetings and assist the committee in developing its recommendations.
- **UNC General Administration** would direct the day-to-day work of staff, campuses, the Commission and the Scholars Council on planning, information gathering and response.
- A **Response Team** would develop a clear, comprehensive plan for responding to and implementing approved recommendations.

Goals

The process should result in a more demand-driven University focused on meeting the needs of the state over the next 20 years. To achieve this goal, we must identify the demands this will place on the University, determine how these demands will be met efficiently and affordably, and ensure that the University continues to fulfill its mission of service to North Carolina and its people.

Process Flow Chart

