

Approved 11/27/12

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
Tuesday, October 2, 2012
Room 643, Legislative Office Building
10:00 a.m.**

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee met on October 2, 2012, in room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. There were 14 members in attendance. The following Senators were present: Senator Tillman, Senator Brock, Senator Pate, Senator Preston, Senator Robinson, Senator Rucho, and Senator Soucek. The following Representatives were present: Representative Holloway, Representative Blackwell, Representative Brandon, Representative Goodman, Representative Hilton, Representative Langdon, and Representative Pridgen. Representative Holloway presided as chair.

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Holloway introduced who would be heard in the meeting today and approved the minutes.

2013 Budget/Legislative Priorities

June Atkinson

June Atkinson, State Superintendent of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, was recognized. Please see attached presentation that was followed by Ms. Atkinson. She summarized the importance of remodeling education in order to prepare students for the challenges they are going to face in the future. She spoke on the common threads between the State Board of Education and the North Carolina General Assembly. She summarized the modernization and integration of reforms. Ms. Atkinson then reviewed on the funding priorities, as seen in the presentation. Elimination of the 376 million dollar discretionary cut which would allow for 4,300 more teachers. Salary compensation a 1% raise would equal to 52 million dollars. Textbooks 77 million dollars needed for improvements and more digital resources. Continue funding for diagnostics for formative assessments and credentials approximately 8 million dollar. 13.3 million dollars for after school and summer extended learning time.

Senator Tillman was recognized to speak. He asked since he always heard it cost 80 to 90 million dollars for a 1% raise and hoped that she was right. Senator Tillman stated that he hopes to see a move towards pay for performance. Ms. Atkinson stated that in regards to pay for performance they are moving towards an equitable evaluation of teachers. Deliberate in working with external groups in order to measure progress.

Senator Robinson was recognized to speak. Would you remind the committee about the ACT requirements? What is the textbook situation for the new common course standards and how is that impacted with digital textbooks? Ms. Atkinson stated that in 8th grade the students take the ACT, the results are then used as assessment information to give to next teacher about strengths and weakness in math and language arts. It is then up to the

teacher to address needed improvements and then see if the students on track. In 10th grade ACT is given again in order to see improvements and to see what areas need to be improved. In 11th grade students would take the ACT again in order to make the last year more profitable to make them career and college ready. On the matter of textbooks Ms. Atkinson stated that moving towards teaching mathematics online through a digital device is important for the new common core material. Teachers are used to hard copies of textbooks, but some do not align with new common core material.

Senator Pate was recognized to speak. Asked about the fade out of children in reading over summer and wanted to explain the 13 million requested to fix that problem. Dr. Atkinson stated that schools would offer summer camps for students who are behind grade level. This money would be used to provide extra help and assistance to those children who need it.

Representative Goodman was recognized to speak. Representative Goodman had questions about pay for performance, if it was based on relative performance, competition or a general performance model. Dr. Atkinson stated that there are many models, but none that are perfect in the United States to reproduce. They are working on creating a model that is fair to teachers, recognizes performance, and can be used over time. Rep. Goodman was worried about a competitive situation. Dr. Atkinson said that they have worked on this; one of major points is that teaching is a collaborative endeavor.

Tom Ross

Tom Ross, President of The University of North Carolina, was recognized. His presentation is attached and was followed during his time before the committee. He stated that the focus now is that the UNC System must follow a long term planning schedule every 5 years. There are 5 key points in the Strategic Planning Process as seen in the presentation. Want to complete this process early in 2013 in time for long session. He then stated who was on the committee in order to make this new 5 year strategic plan. Trying to understand what the workforce needs are in order to tailor achievement goals to those needs. Thanked the committee for the extra financial aid money that was granted last session.

Senator Tillman was recognized to speak. Stated he is looking forward to seeing the 5 year plan. Senator Tillman asked if it was possible to switched students form an overenrolled institution to an under enrolled one. President Ross stated that it was near impossible since students choose the institutions they feel would be best. However, about 50,000 students apply to multiple institutions in the system. Senator Tillman gave a follow up question and asked if there was room for more cuts in administration, and combination in programs. President Ross says that the best place is in shared services across campuses. They have eliminated a number of programs, and continue to make sure that courses are relevant and valuable.

Representative Brandon was recognized to speak. He asked about online activity, how to use online courses more efficiently in the 5 year plan. President Ross stated over 250 degree programs online. The system is looking at how to make it easier for students to

take courses across campuses. The system is looking at concepts of blended learning between online courses and in class instruction.

Senator Robinson was recognized to speak. Asked President Ross to speak more on performance based enrollment. President Ross said hoped to go towards an enrollment based and performance based funding. If a campus were not performing at a certain level then the system would restrict their enrollment numbers. Each campus would have separate goals based on past and give them goals to reach for the future. Senator Robinson follow up by asked what is being done to support smaller institutions that do not have as much outside funding. President Ross stated that sharing resources to help smaller campuses to learn how to fundraiser more efficiently and raise more money for the institution is the main focus.

Senator Brock was recognized. Senator Brock was irked by the large money needed for renovations and requested a list of projects from the University Chancellors about specific projects. President Ross stated that that list could be provided as a follow up.

Dr. Scott Ralls

Dr. Scott Ralls, President of the North Carolina Community College System, was recognized. Dr. Ralls state that the community college system has 2 main strategic focuses; jobs and student success. The job focus is specifically in the sectors of healthcare, technicians, and how we restructure curriculum under industry standards and needs. The second of student success is based mainly on graduation rates. Dr. Ralls thanked the committee for its help with priorities and budget concerns. He emphasized a focus to work together with goals and priorities for the next session. He stated that they are in the middle of working on strategic plan with Presidents of the community colleges. Main areas that they will attempt to move forward on are looking at year round funding. Community colleges are not funded for summer school. This has a huge impact since the average age of a student is 27 and therefore are not used to taking the summer off. Summer funding could be one of the best things to help students, which is a legislative change. This funding was lost in 2003, and if funding were reinstated it would tremendously help student success. The issue of performance based funding system has been in place for some time; however, they have not had the funding to implement the performance based funding. Back to Work program was implemented by General Assembly to tie in industry certification and provided 5 million in funding. Still struggle in labs and shops to renovate and equip, particularly in health care and lab environments. These types of services attract students and move them through with the skills that they need in the field.

Senator Tillman was recognized to speak. Senator Tillman asked to hear the price tag for the priority items, such as the summer program. Dr. Ralls asked for 10% of 15 million as a starting place for targeted summer programs.

49er Finish Program: UNC Campus Level Initiatives to Reclaim "Dropouts"

Betty Doster, Special Assistant for Constituent Relations at UNC Charlotte, was recognized. Presentation is attached. Ms. Doster gave an overview of UNC – Charlotte.

Kelly Moore, Assistant Director, Office of Adult Students and Evening Services at UNC-Charlotte, was recognized. Kelly continued from page 3 of the presentation. Ms. Moore described the students who are eligible for the 49er program. Ms. Moore reviewed the history of the program, outlined in presentation. Then she went over reasons why students have withdrawn from UNC Charlotte. Ms. Moore then spoke on how the program functions once the student is readmitted to UNC Charlotte and the data on success.

Holland Nance, 49er Finish Graduate UNC Charlotte Class of 2009, was recognized. She began college at ECU and changed major 3 times and had 3 semesters to finish and was out of funding. She then went to work full time in IT and call center management. However, she still wanted to finish her degree. After brain trauma she stopped her studies. She then received a mailing from the 49er program and was readmitted to finish her undergraduate degree. She is currently at the top of the pay range due to her undergraduate degree. She credits the 49er program for her ability to finish her degree and now tries to encourage others to join.

Senator Robinson was recognized to speak. She asked the percentage of students on federal loans who dropped out. Ms. Moore stated that they did not have that number but would follow up with Senator Robinson.

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Representative Bryan Holloway
Presiding Chair

Isabel Villa-Garcia
Committee Clerk