

**Report to the
2001 North Carolina General Assembly
2002 Reconvened Session
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee**

**The University of North Carolina
Strategic Initiatives Reserve
2000-01**

March 1, 2002

First appropriated in 1999, the Strategic Initiatives Reserve is used by the University to capitalize on system-wide opportunities and address system-wide issues and concerns. This funding enables the President to explore new initiatives and foster collaboration and partnerships among the campuses. The North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2000-01 to the University of North Carolina, Office of the President, as a Strategic Initiatives Reserve. Projects and collaborative efforts funded from the 2000-01 Strategic Initiatives Reserve are presented below.

UNC Bond Program – Oversight and Compliance – \$1,575,000

The North Carolina General Assembly during the 2000 Session, and 73% of North Carolina's voters in November 2000, offered a clear-cut expression of their values and their priorities for North Carolina by approving \$3.1 billion in higher education construction bonds, \$2.5 billion of which will be invested in the 16 UNC campuses and affiliated entities. The statutorily created Bond Oversight Committee, the UNC Board of Governors, the President, and the 16 chancellors stand accountable for the construction dollars that have been provided by the voters of this state. They have resolved to execute UNC's \$2.5-billion capital program *on time and on budget*. Toward this goal, funds from the Strategic Initiatives Reserve were allocated to prepare the master schedule for construction and cash flow for the bond program, to maintain reporting requirements, to improve the use of Historically Underutilized Businesses, to evaluate construction management capacities and recommend improvements, and to implement a partner or team approach to capital project administration.

Genomax Genomic Database – \$324,000

In the new world of genomics, scientists at the constituent institutions are involved in the beginning of an era that will lead to the eventual understanding of every human, plant and animal protein and its role in regulating growth, health and disease resistance. The State of North Carolina and the University have invested in attracting faculty, building facilities, and up-fitting laboratories to support teaching and research of advanced biotechnology disciplines. As part of that effort, funds from the Strategic Initiatives Reserve were allocated to fund the UNC collaborative purchase of genome data warehousing software/hardware. This effort provides all students and faculty at all UNC campuses with real-time genome database access in laboratories and classrooms.

Electronic Data Interchange for N.C. High School Transcripts/UNC Admissions Process Improvements – \$96,400

As part of the Pathways of North Carolina partnership with College Foundation of North Carolina, whose goal is to prepare students in the state for a college education, funds were allocated to automate the UNC retrieval and delivery of official high school transcripts with admissions applications. For each campus, these improvements could mean as much as a five-week savings in the admissions process time. Other initiatives included programming modifications and interface services associated with this improvement.

UNC Technology Development Initiative – \$40,000

Technology has become a core component of education and research around the world and it is an essential tool for attaining and creating knowledge. This knowledge revolution brings unique opportunities and challenges to the University that requires new thinking, innovative structures, collaboration and investment by the State. Funds from the Strategic Initiatives Reserve were allocated to fund the development of a UNC technology-based economic development plan. The analysis will provide initial needs assessments, prepare and provide commercialization services training, conduct technology assessments, and provide program guidance to the 16 constituent institutions.

Financial Services Exchange Institute – \$100,000

Funds were allocated from the Reserve to aid UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC-Charlotte's participation in planning for a Financial Services Exchange Institute. The Financial Services Exchange Institute, a product of three years of planning, is a non-profit organization that supports financial services companies as they compete in rapidly evolving markets. Financial Services Exchange Institute participants are financial industry executives, academic professionals and government officials. Among the major initiatives of the Financial Services Exchange Institute are financial services research, the expansion of strategic thinking and leadership capabilities through unique training programs, and to venture capitalists and angel financiers a forum to foster innovation and technology transfer.

Intellectual Property Assessment, Training and Commercialization Review – \$47,000

Research is a critical component of the University's mission, contributing to the creation of knowledge as well as providing service and the potential for economic development of the state. Funds from the Reserve were used to review best practices related to technology transfer and intellectual property management, to support training development and enhancement in the functional area, and to conduct research on promising technologies developed at the campuses in order to develop appropriate strategies for their transfer.

UNC Alumni Survey and National Survey of Student Engagement – \$221,000

Using funds from the Strategic Initiatives Reserve, two major surveys were undertaken to assist in leading the University and its constituent institutions in coming years. In the Spring of 2001, a survey was done of freshman and graduating seniors to establish a knowledge base as to success of the education process. A survey was also conducted of approximately 24,000 students that earned baccalaureate degrees during the 1999-2000 academic year to assess how well prepared they were to meet the challenges facing recent college graduates.

Sponsored Programs Web Application – \$50,000

Funds were used to develop a web application to manage the University's sponsored programs research activities at the system, campus, and faculty level. Previously, all information about the University's sponsored research programs was available as a printed report only. The web application will allow all users and stakeholders timely access to needed information.

Professional Development Web Application – \$50,000

Strategic Initiative funds were allocated to develop an online repository of professional development materials for UNC faculty and staff. The benefits of this web application include standardization of professional development efforts as well as cost savings due to economies of scale, reduced travel, and the leveraging of external resources.

Online Voting System Review – \$3,000

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is involved in a project titled "Electronic Voting Systems for Large-Scale Online Elections." Funds were allocated for 2000-01 to provide a preliminary technology assessment to assist the campus in its efforts.

UNC Press Development – \$65,000

Through collaboration with members of the academic community and scholars working in the public sector, UNC Press has become the "press of record" for some of the best new work on our state and region. An audit was funded to assess the development and advancement capability of the organization and to provide strategies and direction to future endeavors. After the audit, strategies were implemented to expand the role of the UNC Press and permit it to undertake projects that are of great educational and economic value to the citizens of North Carolina.

Compensation Study – \$14,943

Having and retaining senior leadership on the campuses is critical to the success of the University. Increasingly, UNC has become less competitive in salary and benefits for chancellors. Strategic Initiative Reserve funds were allocated to fund a review and comparison of the conditions of contracts and employment agreements for the heads of campuses and systems in higher education.

Reversion of Strategic Initiatives Reserve Funds – \$413,657

At the direction of the Office of State Budget and Management, funds totaling \$413,657 were reverted from the 2000-01 Strategic Initiatives Reserve to the General Fund to help balance, on a cash basis, the 2000-01 State Budget.

These allocations have effectively been used to explore new initiatives and respond efficiently to unexpected needs and opportunities arising within the University.