The University of North Carolina

POST OFFICE BOX 2688, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-2688

ERSKINE B. BOWLES, *President*

Telephone: (919) 962-1000   FAX: (919) 843-9695
E-mail: ebowles@northcarolina.edu

Appalachian State
University

East Carolina
University

Elizabeth City
State University

Fayetteville State
University

North Carolina
Agricultural and
Technical State
University

North Carolina
Central University

North Carolina
School of
the Arts

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

University of
North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

University of
North Carolina
at Charlotte

University of
North Carolina
at Greensboro

University of
North Carolina
at Pembroke

University of
North Carolina
at Wilmington

Western Carolina
University

Winston-Salem
State University

February 26, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
           Senator A. B. Swindell, Chairman
           Representative Doug Yongue, Chairman

FROM: Erskine Bowles *EBB*

SUBJECT: Strategic Initiatives Reserve Report, 2005-06

The Joint Conference Committee Report on the Continuation, Expansion, and Capital Budgets, 2001 Session, directed the University of North Carolina to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee annually on how funds appropriated to the Strategic Initiatives Reserve are spent.

The Strategic Initiatives Reserve was established by the General Assembly in 1999 to be 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 2004-05 appropriation of $4,000,000 was reduced by $700,000 on a recurring basis for the 2005-07 biennium, resulting in $3.3 million to UNC-GA for fiscal year 2005-06.

We appreciate the General Assembly's decision to appropriate these funds and the decision to allow management flexibility to the University. We will continue our effort to be fully accountable for this delegation of authority. A detailed report is attached.

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Richard Bostic
     Fiscal Research Division

Report to the
2007 North Carolina General Assembly
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

The University of North Carolina
Strategic Initiatives Reserve
2005-06

February 1, 2007

First appropriated in 1999, the Strategic Initiatives Reserve is used by the President of the University to encourage multi-campus initiatives, take advantage of promising opportunities, and address system-wide issues and concerns. Beginning in the 2005-07 biennium, the previous annual appropriation of $4 million was reduced to $3.3 million – all $3.3 million was allocated to projects during the fiscal year.   Projects and collaborative efforts funded from this Reserve are identified below.

UNC Research Development Initiative – $1,015,994

Funding from the Reserve provided for a system-wide Research Development Initiative for improving the available research infrastructure at all UNC campuses. The project provided funds for three facets of research:

(1) faculty proposal support ($390,994) – to date over 150 faculty have been engaged in workshops, training or other development efforts to strengthen the competitiveness of their proposals and to seek new funding opportunities;

(2) undergraduate research opportunity expansion ($325,000) – more than 50 students have participated in significant summer or academic year research experiences and have presented their research results at relevant professional conferences and other venues. Students report changing majors, improving grades and applying to graduate school as a direct outcome of their undergraduate research experience; and

(3) a pilot project to increase university/business collaborations ($300,000) – a model has been constructed on how universities can leverage industry interaction and create a visible image of being "Open for Business."

Overall, the initiative allowed institutions to increase both participation and success in sponsored research activities, to broaden the pool of potential researchers participating in externally funded activities, to develop new partnerships and models for securing funding, and to identify opportunities to create tangible economic value from research for the University and citizens of the State.

High Performance Computing Grants – $755,526

The University provided funding for five consortia led by UNC campuses to advance a high performance computing and information systems initiative for higher education.

- Appalachian State University – Promote Computational Science and High Performance Computing: Collaboration included NC A & T State University, UNC Greensboro, UNC Pembroke, Western Carolina University, Elon University, Lenoir-Rhyne College, High Point University, Fayetteville State University, UNC Charlotte, and Wake Forest University. The grant funded the establishment of a consortium of NC universities which provided courses and research opportunities for undergraduate students at comprehensive universities.

- East Carolina University – Develop Advanced Visualization System Center: Provided AVS (visualization software) licenses, end-user support, and training to educators, researchers and classroom projects at higher education institutions within North Carolina.

- UNC-Asheville – Advance Scientific Innovations in Numerical Modeling, Digital Visualization, and High-Speed Connectivity in Western NC: Collaboration with UNC Charlotte and Asheville-Buncombe Technical and Community College. The grant provided funding for computer resources at UNCA to be used for numerical weather forecasting and for meteorological research and education.

- UNC-Chapel Hill – Develop Community Grid Portals for Bioinformatics: Collaboration with Wake Technical and Community College, and UNC Wilmington. The grant provided funding for the purchase of a large clustered computer infrastructure and the software application resources for the development of a shared bioinformatics portal to be used by NC students and researchers.

- UNC Wilmington – Foster Undergraduate Research Partnerships through a Graphical User Environment for the NC Computing Grid: UNCW Collaboration with East Carolina University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, Western Carolina University, Cape Fear Community College, and UNC-Chapel Hill. The grant funded the computer resources and research and development

activities surrounding the development of easy-to-use interfaces to grid computing resources.

Marine Sciences Collaborative – $500,000

Funding was provided for seed capital to create collaborations between the University of North Carolina, the NC Community College System, and Duke University to expand Marine Sciences research and economic advancement and applications in North Carolina. Collectively, the partnering higher education institutions began leveraging their intellectual property, academic resources, and infrastructure to establish a marine sciences agenda and strategy for the State. This initiative established collaborative sponsored program research opportunities for higher education, identified new marine markets and applications, and created a rich environment for research and entrepreneurial investment in the state's marine science field of study and industry.

Electrical Engineering Program Expansion – $300,000

Strategic Initiatives funding was provided to Western Carolina University (WCU) to support improvements in the joint electrical engineering/optics program between WCU and UNC Charlotte. Program expansion will allow the campus to meet the increasing demand for electrical engineering graduates for existing and emerging businesses in western North Carolina.

UNC Acceleration of Technology Project (ACT) – $191,200

Seed capital was provided for the UNC Acceleration of Technology Project. This initiative created a strategic roadmap for UNC campuses pioneering promising UNC intellectual property technology for economic commercialization. The project provided: (1) technology transfer office training in analysis and identification of emerging technology applications for start up ventures; (2) technology entrepreneurship and commercialization support in evaluation of UNC intellectual property portfolios into potential start-up venture categories; and (3) technical support in development and implementation of ACT business and academic models.

Enrollment Planning Project – $160,000

The President provided funding for a joint initiative between the Finance and Academic Affairs Divisions of UNC General Administration to build a robust enrollment management information system for the University of North Carolina. The SAS Enrollment Planning application will provide significantly improved enrollment reporting, statistical sampling functionality, and enrollment and funding model projections capability to meet the enrollment planning and management operations expected by the Board of Governors.

Math & Science Majors Summer Program – $90,000

Funding was provided for an accelerated summer program at NC Agricultural and Technical University that prepared 21 math and science majors to teach in the North Carolina public schools.

Early College iSchool – $75,000

Funding was provided to UNC Greensboro to advance Early College iSchool adoption to a larger cross section of NC high school students in North Carolina. The Early College iSchool initiative provides the opportunity for junior and senior high school students to earn college credit (e.g. English Composition, Western Civilization, Pre-calculus, etc.) at the same time they are satisfying high school graduation requirements. Funds were used to expand marketing of the program statewide through the internet, billboards, radio, direct mail, information sessions, newspaper advertising, and phone solicitation.

College Foundation of NC (CFNC) Website Enhancement – $59,280

The University provided funding for software procurement to enable improved CFNC electronic data interface capability for online applications, submission of high school transcripts, and financial aid resources for students and their parents.

High Priority Schools Accountability Initiative – $50,000

Funding was provided for the Principals' Executive Program to provide leadership training to principals in North Carolina's high priority high schools to meet the accountability goals required by the NC State Board of Education's accountability system (ABCs) and the US Department of Education's accountability system (AYP).

Intellectual Property Symposium – $25,000

Strategic Initiatives funding was provided to support the UNC Symposium on Intellectual Property, Creativity, and Innovation. Approximately 150 University faculty and staff examined all legal and managerial aspects of intellectual property operations, as well as business, political, and cultural practices that can foster creative innovation.

UNC Press – $25,000

Funding was provided for information technology and implementation costs for system deployment of an integrated warehouse, customer service, order fulfillment, accounts receivable, and inventory management solution for UNC Press. The system provides 24/7 real time access of sales, returns, inventory, and royalty data, as well as state-of-the-art online shopping and order placement with shipping confirmation and tracking capability. This model is used as an example for system-wide possibilities for operational efficiencies and cost savings.

Undergraduate Research Symposium – $20,000

The University provided funding for more than 250 undergraduate researchers from the UNC System, the NC Community Colleges and private four-year institutions to participate and attend the state-wide symposium that showcased North Carolina's best researchers, undergraduate research activities, and innovations. The symposium has strong economic relevance for the citizens of the State.

UNC Public Policy and Leadership Initiative – $15,000

Strategic Initiatives funding was provided for the design of an institutional structure for a major research-brokerage initiative in public policy and leadership at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Southern Growth Policies Board – $10,000

Funding was provided for support of the development and advancement of visionary economic development policies that enable partnership and dialog among a diverse cross-section of the region's governors, legislators, business and academic leaders, as well as representatives from the economic- and community-development sectors. Regional and national research was provided on topics such as community development, globalization and trade, innovation and technology, and workforce development.

UNC Campus Safety Initiative – $8,000

The University provided funding for the development of strategies, standards, and techniques to address campus threat assessments. Campus training was established to implement and sustain the recommendations from the UNC Campus Security Initiative.