

RESOLUTION 23**AN ACT ASKING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO QUALITY EDUCATION IN DETERMINING TUITION AND FEE RATES FOR THE 2009-2010 YEAR**

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina is empowered to “set tuition and required fees at the institutions, not inconsistent with actions of the General Assembly” pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes §116-11(7); and,

WHEREAS, in exercising its authority under state law, at its October 2006 meeting the Board of Governors adopted a four-year plan proposed by UNC General Administration to provide a level of predictability to tuition and fee increases, capping those increases to a maximum of 6.5% per year or lower based on appropriations received by the State of North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, recognizing the economic erosion that had occurred in the State of North Carolina since the four-year plan was adopted by the Board, and the financial distress it caused students and their families, in its October 2008 meeting the UNC Association of Student Governments unanimously recommended maintaining access to its constituent institutions as each campus began its respective tuition and fee review processes; and,

WHEREAS, since that time, the national and state economies have continued to decline significantly and sizable temporary budget cuts have been ordered by the Governor of North Carolina -- cuts that are expected to become permanent in the state budget adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly and will greatly harm the academic resources of the University’s constituent institutions; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of this Association is to ensure “affordability and accessibility to quality education”, an objective threatened on multiple fronts as tuition and fee increases hinder access while state-mandated reductions in funding erode academic quality and the ability of students to continue making timely progress towards graduation; and,

WHEREAS, given these dual challenges to students across the University, and in light of the Board’s adoption of a long-term view toward predictability in tuition and fee rates as expressed through its four-year plan, the Association believes the campus-generated proposals developed in accordance with that plan should be given deference by the Board of Governors except in such instances where doing so would have a substantial negative impact on accessibility; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments holds accessibility to the University to be of paramount importance during these difficult economic times; and be it further

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNC ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENTS

37th SESSION, 2008-2009

RESOLVED, in light of the recent and forthcoming budget reductions to the University, however, the Association recognizes the importance of maintaining academic quality in the years ahead and believes the individual institutions are best-suited to determine how to maintain that quality; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Association asks the Board of Governors to carefully consider the various tuition and fee increase proposals before it, and to defer to the well-processed recommendations of the respective institutions except in such instances where doing so would significantly hinder student access to the University of North Carolina; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Association also asks that the Board of Governors provide adequate flexibility to the constituent institutions in addressing the difficult economic environment, particularly by giving campuses discretion in the allocation of funds toward faculty salaries as well as allowing needed increases in student fees in lieu of increases in tuition for the 2009-2010 academic year.

I hereby certify the foregoing resolution was read twice and adopted by consent in the General Assembly of the UNC Association of Student Governments, this the ____ day of _____, 2009.

Ashley M. Yopp
Senior Vice President

I hereby signify my approval of this resolution as adopted by the General Assembly of the UNC Association of Student Governments, this the ____ day of _____, 2009.

T. Greg Doucette
President