

RESOLUTION 23

A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED
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

Short Title: 2009-2010 Tuition/Fee Recommendations Act II (Public)

Sponsored by: Association President DOUCETTE (corresponding)

First Reading: January 23, 2009

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(Initial Edition)

Referred to: _____ Council of Student Body Presidents _____.

1 **WHEREAS,** the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina is empowered to “set
2 tuition and required fees at the institutions, not inconsistent with actions of the
3 General Assembly” pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes §116-11(7); and,
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5 **WHEREAS,** in exercising its authority under state law, at its October 2006 meeting the Board
6 of Governors adopted a four-year plan proposed by UNC General Administration
7 to provide a level of predictability to tuition and fee increases, capping those
8 increases to a maximum of 6.5% per year or lower based on appropriations
9 received by the State of North Carolina; and,
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11 **WHEREAS,** citing the economic erosion that had occurred in the State of North Carolina since
12 the four-year plan was adopted by the Board, and the financial distress of students
13 and their families, the UNC Association of Student Governments unanimously
14 adopted a resolution in October 2008 asking the Board to temporarily reduce its
15 maximum allowed increase requests for the 2009-2010 academic year before
16 universities substantively began their review processes; and,
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18 **WHEREAS,** no action was taken by the Board of Governors regarding the Association’s
19 request, and each of the 16 public universities proceeded with their respective
20 tuition and fee review processes outlined in the four-year plan; and,
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22 **WHEREAS,** in the two months since many of those review processes have been completed,
23 both the national and state economies have continued to decline significantly and
24 sizable temporary budget cuts have been ordered by the Governor of North
25 Carolina -- cuts that are expected to become permanent in the state budget adopted
26 by the North Carolina General Assembly and will greatly harm the academic
27 resources of the University’s constituent institutions; and,
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29 **WHEREAS,** the mission of this Association is to ensure “affordability and accessibility to
30 quality education”, an objective threatened on multiple fronts as tuition and fee
31 increases hinder access while state-mandated reductions in funding erode

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32 academic quality and the ability of students to continue making timely progress
33 towards graduation; and,
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35 **WHEREAS,** given these dual challenges to students across the University, and in light of the
36 Board's adoption of a long-term view toward predictability in tuition and fee rates
37 as expressed through its four-year plan, the Association believes the campus-
38 generated proposals developed in accordance with that plan should be given
39 deference by the Board of Governors except in such instances where doing so
40 would have a substantial negative impact on accessibility; now, therefore, be it
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42 **RESOLVED,** that the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments holds
43 accessibility to the University to be of paramount importance during these
44 difficult economic times, due to the economy's profound negative impact on
45 students, families and taxpayers alike; and be it further
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47 **RESOLVED,** the Association also asks the Board of Governors to carefully consider the various
48 tuition and fee increase proposals before it, and to defer to the well-processed
49 recommendations of the respective institutions except in such instances where
50 doing so would significantly hinder student access to the University of North
51 Carolina.