

September 30, 2021

Faculty Council Legislative Report

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on legislative matters. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact us.

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North Carolina 2021 Legislative Session

UNC System and UNC Charlotte priorities

- Salary increases for faculty and staff
 - In an effort to put a “face” on the hardworking faculty and staff, we, along with the UNC System, have been sharing **staff** stories with legislators.
 - Faculty stories that have been sent to the UNC System for inclusion in their Essential Workers series include; Dr. Misty Hathcock, Regional Director for NC New Teacher Support Program and Clinical Professor in the Cato College of Education and Dr. Christopher Bejger, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry
 - Additionally, we have included outstanding faculty stories in each of the Constituent Relations newsletters sent to elected officials and Board of Governor members.
- Enrollment growth funding which is critical to our growing campus.

Budget Update and Process:

The Governor's **budget** was released in March which began the long process. The Senate released their **budget** in late June and the House released their **version** in mid-August. **Enrollment growth and building reserves are both fully funded in both the House and Senate budgets, salary increases are also included in both versions but differ. More than \$87 million for repair and renovations including \$45 million for the renovations of Cameron and Burson is included in the Governor's, Senate and House budgets.** Unique to the House version of the budget, recurring funding for the expansion of the Burson Data Center to create a hub for data science, cybersecurity and AI and \$10MM in nonrecurring funding to expand the engineering program through faculty, staff, equipment, facilities and other resources was included in the House budget but not at the request of the University.

The House and Senate passed the budget by a veto-proof majority. This week, Governor Cooper, Senate President Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore have begun negotiations. We are hopeful that they reach an agreement soon.

The Chancellor, members of the Board of Trustees, and our office have continuously and actively engaged with budget writers in advancing System and university priorities, most notably salary increases for faculty and staff.

Bills and issues we are tracking:

- SB **355 Government Transparency Act of 2021** would make state employee personnel records public including disciplinary, promotion and transfer actions. The NC Press Association has advocated for the bill noting that thirty-five states have such legislation and the public has a right to know. SEANC has voiced concerns and we are advising legislative leaders with pitfalls with the bill.