Executive Overview
UNCG Operating Resources
STATE OPERATING BUDGET – BUDGET FLEXIBILITY

During the 1991 and several subsequent sessions of the General Assembly, additional latitude was granted to the University that enables UNCG to (1) transfer budget in ways that was not previously available without Office of State Budget & Management (OSBM) approval, (2) administer personnel classifications and properly set compensation for campus personnel and (3) purchase items at higher dollar limits without State Purchasing & Contract approval. This legislative action has been referred to as Budget Flexibility and the Board of Governors must designate a UNC institution as a “Special Responsibility Constituent Institution” before the institution may benefit from the legislation.

The Board of Governors has established policies that specify how an institution may be designated as a Special Responsibility Constituent Institution. Further, the Board has adopted broad budgetary, carryforward, personnel administration, purchasing and reporting policies.

A. Achieving and Retaining Status as a Special Responsibility Constituent Institution

Management Staffing Standards and Internal Controls and Safeguards requirements include:

- The Chancellor must assume personal responsibility and also establish the appropriate administrative and internal control procedures for carrying out the special delegations of authority. This includes the budget, human resource classification and compensation administration, purchasing, and financial record integrity.
- The Chancellor shall prepare a plan for the uses of appropriations carried forward from the previous fiscal year and anticipated lapsed salary funds for the current fiscal year.
- Other provisions of the legislation require the President to follow up on major audit findings

B. Budget Administration

- Appropriations

The General Fund appropriation is made in the form of a single sum to the University.

The University may expend the General Fund appropriation in the manner deemed by the Chancellor to maintain and advance the programs and services of the institution consistent with the directives and policies of the Board of Governors. These directives
prohibit the elimination of a program of study, creation of new financial aid programs, creation of new faculty positions on a permanent basis and using funds appropriated for Distance Education on other initiatives without Board approval.

The Chancellor can allocate up to one million dollars ($1,000,000) per project for repairs, renovations, maintenance, and equipment for institutional facilities from available operating funds. These funds will not revert at the end of the fiscal year (G.S. 116-13-1(c)).

- Reversions and Carry-Forwards of Appropriations

The appropriations credit balance remaining at the close of a fiscal year may be carried forward to the next fiscal year and used for one-time expenditures that will not impose additional financial obligations on the State. However, the amount carried forward under this section shall not exceed two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) of the General Fund appropriation (G.S. 116-30.3) and is subject to approval by the Director of the Budget.

In addition to the two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) that can be carried forward, the University can choose to carry forward unspent utilities (G.S. 116-30.3B) savings that have been realized through energy conservation measures. At least 60% of these funds will be used for energy conservation projects in the new year. These funds are limited to one-time capital and operating expenditures that do not create a continuing burden on the state. An annual report on the use of these funds is required.

C. Personnel Administration

- The Chancellor, when he/she finds that to do so would help to maintain and advance the programs and services of the institution, may establish and abolish positions, acting in accordance with State personnel policies and procedures or policies and procedures of the Board of Governors if these positions are exempt from the State Personnel Act.

- No action should have the effect of either establishing a new academic program or administrative unit or closing an existing academic or inter-institutional program or administrative unit. No action should be taken which permanently reduces the number or amount of Regular Term budgeted teaching positions supported by General Fund appropriations thereby changing the student-faculty ratio or the budgeted average teaching salary established by the Board of Governors.

- Implementation of all personnel actions are subject to the availability of funds within the University’s current budget to fund the full annualized costs of these actions.
D. Purchasing

- The expenditure benchmark for the University with regard to competitive bid procedures and the bid value benchmark was increased to $500,000.

E. Impact on Education

The University must include in its institutional effectiveness plan those assessment measures that are determined by the Board to be measures that will assure some standard measure of student learning and development in general undergraduate education.

F. Reporting Requirements

- *Monthly Report* The University must prepare a monthly operating report showing the institution’s current expenditure plan.
- *Fiscal Year Plan* The Chancellor must prepare a fiscal year plan, specifying programmatic, and major expenditure classification detail, for expending funds carried forward from the previous fiscal year. This report has not been required in the last few years.

UNCG Implementation

UNCG has established internal policies concerning Budget Flexibility that are used to assure the institution not only complies with the Board of Governors directives and the legislation but also leverages budget flexibility to maximize the institution’s ability to react to short term needs (for example, utility costs) and the funding of major campus wide initiatives. In past years, the Student Information System purchase and implementation and the partial funding of several Capital Improvement projects utilizing the prior year’s carry-forward were accomplished via Budget Flexibility.

The major policy concerning budget flexibility that may be unique to UNCG concerns the use of lapsed SPA salaries. During some years, the Chancellor may redirect one-half of these funds to the Provost or Vice Chancellor for allocation. UNCG does not allow departments to utilize the other half of lapsed SPA salaries unless these funds are used to pay a contract or temporary worker to do the work normally performed by the vacant SPA position.

Any State funding that is carried to the next year is under the direction of the Chancellor, regardless of the source of the funds. In the current year, the Provost and Vice Chancellors may anticipate that some of their funding will not be fully utilized due to extraordinary circumstances; the Chancellor may approve the allocation of these funds back to the Division that generated them if he/she deems it in the best interest of the University.
For a more detailed explanation of appropriate expenditures, please see the “Spending Guidelines” located at:

http://fsv.uncg.edu/SpendingGuidelines.pdf