



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHARLOTTE

# Hot Off the Press: Legislative Updates

September 28, 2023

**Anna Helms '12**

Director of Constituent Relations  
External Relations & Partnerships

# External Relations and Partnerships



**Betty Doster**  
Special Assistant to the Chancellor  
for External Relations and  
Partnerships



**Anna Helms '12**  
Director of Constituent Relations

# Budget Basics

North Carolina operates on a biennial budget

## Long Session (2023)

- Begins in odd numbered years
- Enacted budget covers both fiscal years of the biennium

## Short Session (2024)

- Begins in even numbered years
- Adjustments to 2nd fiscal year of biennial budget

# Budget Process

- Governor presents balanced budget recommendations
- First chamber originates, prepares and passes proposed budget for consideration by second chamber
- Second chamber may choose to concur first chamber's bill and vote to enact or, the more common practice, create a substitute budget bill proposal and send it back to the first chamber

# Budget Process cont'd

- Typically first chamber fails to concur on second chamber's substitute proposal and a conference committee is appointed to resolve differences between each chamber's proposed budget legislation
- Conferees from each chamber resolve differences and a conference report is adopted by each chamber to enact and ratify an Appropriations Act
- The ratified Act is sent to the Governor who has three options
  - Sign the Act
  - Veto the Act
  - or let the Act become law in 10 days without signature

# Raises and Compensation

- **Faculty and Staff Pay Increases:**
  - 7% pay increase over two years for all permanent faculty and staff:
    - 4% in FY 23-24, retroactive to July 1, 2023
    - 3% in FY 24-25
- **UNC System Faculty Recruitment and Retention Fund:** \$15 million recurring
- **Increased Compensation for Nursing Faculty:** UNC System pool for additional salary increases, not to exceed 15%, in nursing faculty pay to support retention and address the critical shortage of nursing instructors. Starting pay shall increase by 10%.

***Important Note: The University is awaiting additional guidance from the state and UNC System about all compensation-related actions including when to expect salary increases directly with employees as it becomes available.***

# Investments in Academics, Student Life, and Research

- **Engineering NC's Future:** \$5 million (now recurring funding) for William States Lee College of Engineering, the College of Computing and Informatics and the School of Data Science.
- **Distinguished Professorship Endowment (Systemwide):** \$5 million for two years. Match can only be used for STEM disciplines.
- **Esports:**
  - \$1.5 million for upfitting and equipping of an Esports center in Popp Martin Student Union.
  - \$250,000 was provided for FY25 to support programming.
- **Healthcare workforce expansion** \$15 million for two years to the System
- **Expansion of Data and Computer Science** was **not** funded
  - Top priority for 2024 Session

# Facilities and Athletics

- **Smith Hall:** \$3.6 million in FY 24-25 for planning and design of the comprehensive renovation of Smith Hall, home to the Engineering Technology and Construction Management programs.
- **Repairs and Renovations:** More than \$530 million to the UNC System for overall facilities repair and renovations. The Board of Governors will determine each institution's specific funding allotment.
- **Wagering Receipts:** Approximately \$1.165 million in expected sports and horse wagering receipts will be allocated to Charlotte Athletics.
- **Stadium Improvements:** \$25 million over two years for expansion and improvements at Jerry Richardson Stadium, matching a private gift to support the project.



# Next steps

- Short Session
  - Typically begins in May
- Continuing to build the case for data and computer science expansion

# Legislative Insight

## Senate:

Vickie Sawyer \*R

Dave Craven \*R

DeAndrea Salvador \*D

Mujtaba Mohammed \*D

Joyce Waddell \*D

DeAndrea Salvador \*D

Ted Alexander \*R

## House:

Dean Arp \*R

Jason Saine \*R

Jake Johnson \*R

Kelly Hastings \*R

Cecil Brockman \*D

Mary Belk \*D

Terry Brown \*D

Tricia Cotham \*R

Kevin Crutchfield \*R

# Contact Information

Anna Helms

ahelms35@charlotte.edu



# Hot Off the Press: North Carolina Legislative Updates (cont'd)

September 28, 2023

Sarah Edwards, Deputy General Counsel



# Substantive Laws Passed

- Session Law 2023-42: Sports Wagering/Horse Racing Wagering
- Session Law 2023-109: Fairness in Women's Sports Act
- Session Law 2023-62: Nondiscrimination/Dignity in State Work
- Session Law 2023-102: UNC Omnibus

\* Other enacted laws might affect only one unit/departement

\* The bill that targeted faculty tenure (HB 715) did not progress and is unlikely to progress at this point.



# Session Law 2023-42 (Sports Wagering)

- Signed by governor on 6/14/2023
- **Main provisions:**
  - Sports wagering is no longer criminalized under certain conditions
  - Includes rules for individuals and groups involved in sports wagering process (licenses, penalties, taxes, etc.)
- **Effects for UNC Charlotte:**
  - UNC Charlotte will receive a portion of the tax proceeds to support its collegiate athletics program
  - Individuals prohibited from engaging in sports wagering:
    - Any person under age 21
    - Any participant in that sporting event, including an athlete, coach, trainer, official, or any employee or staff of a participant

# Session Law 2023-109 (Women's Sports)

- Passed 8/16/2023 over governor's veto
- **Main provisions:**
  - Middle school, high school, and college sports teams must be designated as male, female, or coed
  - Males may not participate on female sports teams
  - Sex is determined “based solely on a person’s reproductive biology and genetics at birth”
  - Individuals harmed by violations of the law may sue for injunctive relief in addition to actual damages (including for psychological, emotional, or physical harm) and reasonable attorney fees/costs
- **Effects for UNC Charlotte:**
  - Only applies to NCAA-covered intercollegiate teams
  - Law is currently in effect (but changes could be possible based on forthcoming federal Title IX regulations and/or pending court cases)

# Session Law 2023-62 (SHRA changes)

- Passed 6/27/2023 over governor's veto (effective Dec. 1, 2023)
- **Main provisions:**
  - 13 concepts may not be promoted in State government workplaces or included in State employee training program, including items such as:
    - “One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex,”
    - “An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive,”
    - “Any individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress,” or
    - “Particular character traits, values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or beliefs should be ascribed to a race or sex or to an individual because of the individual's race or sex.”



# Session Law 2023-62 (SHRA cont'd)

- **Main provisions (cont'd):**
  - Applicants for SHRA positions may not be solicited or required to “endorse or opine about beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles regarding matters of contemporary political debate or social action”
    - Can still ask questions regarding resume or written/oral remarks
    - Applicants can still voluntarily offer opinions
- **Effects for UNC Charlotte:**
  - Same parameters regarding compelled speech now apply to both EHRA job applicants (through last year’s BOG policy change) and SHRA job applicants (through recent law)
  - Employee education programs will need to be reviewed

# Session Law 2023-102 (UNC Omnibus)

- Enacted 7/14/2023 without action by governor
- **Main provisions:**
  - A public university “shall not require students, faculty, or administrators to publicly express a given view of social policy”
  - A public university “shall remain neutral, as an institution, on the political controversies of the day.”
  - SHRA employees who are exempt under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) may opt to be exempt from the State Human Resources Act (SHRA)
- **Effects for UNC Charlotte:**
  - HR must notify those specific individuals of the options and impact
  - Many eligible SHRA employees will likely become EHRA employees
  - UNC Charlotte will stay cognizant of its duty to remain neutral

**Questions?**



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