

Resolution 2012-7. On Opposition to a Cap on Use of Campus-Based Tuition Increases for Need-Based Student Aid.

The General Faculty resolves:

The faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill strongly endorses the policy of appropriating a portion of the revenue generated by campus-based tuition increases to hold harmless recipients of need-based student aid, and expresses opposition to any proposal that would cap the amount set aside for that purpose.

The Secretary of the Faculty is instructed to transmit this resolution to the President and Chair of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina.

Comment: Tuition and fees at Carolina remain among the lowest nationwide, in keeping with the spirit of the North Carolina Constitution's provision that the benefits of an education at the state's universities, "as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense." Nevertheless, many students would not be able to afford a Carolina education without strong need-based aid. The Carolina Covenant, which guarantees that no student who qualifies for admission to Carolina will be turned away for lack of financial resources, stands as nationally-recognized testimony to our commitment to the fundamental public policy embodied in the constitutional call for public higher education at minimal expense to the student. Today, Carolina holds a proud position as one of only two top public universities that guarantee to meet 100 percent of demonstrated need for all undergraduates.

This tradition of affordability and accessibility has been possible through a combination of strategies, of which the allocation of a substantial portion of tuition increases has been a crucial part. In 2012-2013, Carolina is allocating about 38 percent of its increased tuition revenues for financial aid. If, as one proposal under consideration by the Board of Governors recommends, the University had devoted only the minimum amount (25 percent) of tuition revenue permitted to aid, an estimated 2,200 students would no longer receive crucial need-based grants.

A robust program of need-based aid benefits the entire university community and Carolina's aspirations to academic excellence by ensuring that the most able, prepared, and accomplished applicants seeking admission to Carolina are not turned away for financial reasons. Their presence, in turn, enhances the education of all of their classmates, bolsters the research and teaching environment for the faculty, and adds significantly to the academic excellence of the university. Without the students that a strong program of aid attracts, the education of all students—and the level of excellence of the entire university—would suffer.