

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Self-Study Report 2000-2003

CHAPTER I

PRINCIPLES

AND

PHILOSOPHY OF ACCREDITATION



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Principles and Philosophy of Accreditation

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1. Introduction to Principles and Philosophy of Accreditation

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro presents this Self-Study document as an affirmation of its acceptance of the principles and responsibilities of self-regulatory accreditation. UNCG acknowledges that institutional accreditation is fundamental to its operation. Furthermore, UNCG expects to benefit from the peer assessment of institutional strengths and weaknesses that will take place at the conclusion of the self-study process.

2. Institutional Commitment and Responsibilities in the Accreditation Process (1.1)

(1.1, p. 5, ll. 1-16) The self-study process at UNCG recorded in this document has been broad-based, as indicated by the lists of Committee members and the outline of tasks completed at the office, department, unit, and division levels. The Self-Study has examined every aspect of the institution and identified strengths and weaknesses. Any recommendation in this document is based on a compliance issue; work to address recommendations is already underway. Issues identified in the Self-Study not directly related to minimum compliance have been addressed through proposals; the follow-up plan for these items is to incorporate them in the *UNCG Plan 2003-2008* and the Division plans based on the University Plan.

(1.1, p. 5, ll. 17-25) UNCG has demonstrated its commitment to participation in the activities of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools through the service of its Chancellor as a member of the Commission, through the service of faculty and staff members on site teams, and through compliance with all reporting requirements of the Commission.

(1.1, p. 5, ll. 26-34; p. 6, ll. 1-12) As its statement of University Mission and its record of excellence attest, UNCG is dedicated to the search for knowledge and its dissemination. All its operations in relation to its constituencies, member institutions, and the Commission demonstrate a firm commitment to integrity. In the preparations for, support of, and follow-up after the site visit in February 2003, as in all other interaction with the Commission, UNCG intends to provide access to all parts of the operation and information about all aspects of the institution's affairs. UNCG will establish an open and cooperative environment for the site visit.

(1.1, p. 6, ll. 22-25) The University's compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the 1992 Higher Education Amendments is addressed in Section 5.4.3.5 of this report.

3. Application of the *Criteria* (1.2)

(1.2, p. 7, ll. 4-14) UNCG has reported all existing or planned activities, including substantive change issues, in accordance with Commission policy, as discussed in Section 4.6 of this report.

(1.2, p. 7, ll. 31-32) In keeping with its mission as a “student-centered university,” UNCG provides many avenues for addressing student concerns, whether expressed in writing or by other means. Various documents, including the *UNCG Student Calendar/Handbook*, published annually, and the more extensive *Policies for Students*, available on the University Web site <saf.dept.uncg.edu/studiscp/Manual.html>, provide students with information on the many services and appeals processes available to them. The Offices of the Chancellor, the Provost, and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs ensure that written student complaints which come to those offices are quickly routed to the appropriate unit on campus for prompt investigation and reply. In addition, the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor and the Provost frequently respond to more general student concerns through personal correspondence.

4. Separately Accredited Units (1.3)

(1.3, p. 8) The University of North Carolina at Greensboro has no separately accredited units and no units with the degree of autonomy that such a designation would require.

5. Conditions of Eligibility (1.4)

(1.4, pp. 9-13) The University of North Carolina at Greensboro acknowledges the importance of the 13 Conditions of Eligibility as the basic qualifications of institutional accreditation. Each Condition is addressed below.

(1) In seeking reaffirmation of accreditation from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro accepts the standards of quality set forth in the *Criteria for Accreditation* of the College Delegate Assembly consistent with the policies and procedures of the Commission on Colleges. Through this self-study UNCG demonstrates its intent to comply with the *Criteria*. UNCG accepts that the Commission on Colleges, at its discretion, may make known to any agency or member of the public requiring such information, the nature of any action, positive or negative, regarding the institution’s status with the Commission. UNCG will comply with Commission requests, directives, decisions and policies, and will make complete, accurate, and honest disclosure.

(2) UNCG is a constituent institution of the 16-campus University of North Carolina created by action of the state legislature in 1971 (Session Laws for the State of North Carolina, Chapter 1244, Sec. 18, 1971; North Carolina Constitution, Article IX, Sec. 8 <www.ncga.state.nc.us/SessionLaws/1971_/default.htm>). This legislation authorizes UNCG to offer degrees at the baccalaureate, master’s, specialist’s, and doctoral levels (*The Code of the Board of Governors*, Section 203 A [3]). The degree programs currently authorized by the Board of Governors for each constituent campus are published in the *Academic Program Inventory* <<http://ias.ga.unc.edu/%7Epasses/acrobat/apicipuncg.pdf>>.

(3) The 32-member Board of Governors is designated as the governing board of The University of North Carolina in the *North Carolina General Statutes, G.S.116.3* <www.ncga.state.nc.us/statutes/statutes_in_html/chp1160.html>. The Board of Governors is responsible for the general determination, control, supervision, management, and governance of all affairs of constituent institutions. Some limited oversight authority has been delegated by statute to the 13-member UNCG Board of Trustees, eight of whose members are elected by the Board of Governors. Appendix 1 of *The Code of the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina* (hereafter known as *The Code*) outlines the powers and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees <www.northcarolina.edu/docs/bog/Code/>.

The Board of Governors actively meets its responsibilities through a subcommittee structure and regular meetings of the full Board. In fulfilling its designated duties it approves all new degree programs, develops and presents a unified budget for the university system to the Governor, the Advisory Budget Commission, and the General Assembly, approves construction, and issues revenue bonds for maintenance and construction. The Board of Governors selects the President of the University and elects, upon nomination by the President, the Chancellors of each of the constituent campuses.

Through regular meetings the UNCG Board of Trustees actively carries out its responsibilities, which include promoting the sound development of the institution, helping it to serve the people of the state, and promoting a high level of excellence in every area of endeavor. The Board of Trustees exercises its role to originate general institutional policies as well as to approve policies recommended by the administration.

North Carolina statute requires a financial audit of each institution to be prepared by the Office of the State Auditor. The audit report is filed with the Office of the Governor, the State Controller's Office, the State Budget Office, the Office of the President, and appropriate federal agencies. The Office of the President prepares and submits to the Board of Governors an annual report for the fiscal year.

The Board of Governors takes very seriously its responsibility to ensure the quality of the educational program at the constituent institutions through biennial program review procedures. In addition, proposals for new programs must provide detailed plans for establishing and maintaining program quality and a budget to demonstrate the financial support available for the program.

As outlined by the *General Statutes* and *The Code*, there are specific voting requirements for the Board of Governors that clearly define quorum for the conduct of business. *The Code of the Board of Trustee* also restricts appropriately the ability of individual members to act for the whole. Members of the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees are subject to *The University Policy on Ethics and Conflicts of Interest*. Reasons for potential removal from office and the due process involved before removal from office are outlined in the policy. There is no evidence that the Board of Governors or the UNCG Board of Trustees is under undue pressure from political, religious, nor other external bodies.

Neither the current presiding officer of the Board of Governors, J. Bradley Wilson of Durham, North Carolina, nor any other voting member of the Board has any contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in UNCG. Board members are elected by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina on a staggered basis for four-year terms. *The Code* specifies the terms of office and rotation policies. The independence of the Board of Governors and the UNCG

Board of Trustees is assured by *The Code* <www.northcarolina.edu/docs/bog/Code/>, *The Code of the Board of Trustees* <www.uncg.edu/cha/UNIVERSITY_COUNSEL/POLICIES_PROCEDURES/BOTcode.html>, and *The University Policy on Ethics and Conflicts of Interest* <www.uncg.edu/cha/UNIVERSITY_COUNSEL/POLICIES_PROCEDURES/Conflict_Interest_Policy.html>.

Amendment of the bylaws must occur only by vote of the board after reasonable deliberation <www.uncg.edu/cha/UNIVERSITY_COUNSEL/POLICIES_PROCEDURES/BOTcode.html>.

(4) Patricia A. Sullivan, Chancellor and chief executive officer of UNCG, is a visible, involved, and effective leader. *The Code* outlines the role of the Chancellor of each constituent institution under the authority of the Board of Governors.

(5) During the Reaffirmation Committee visit in February 2003, UNCG will be in operation and have students enrolled in degree programs.

(6) The UNCG *Undergraduate Bulletin* and *The Graduate School Bulletin* describe the degree programs available at the baccalaureate, master's, specialist's and doctoral levels, the courses and credit hours required for each degree, and the course-load expectations for each semester. With the exception of a few programs offered jointly with other accredited institutions, UNCG provides instruction for all coursework required for all its programs.

UNCG evaluates all aspects of its educational program through a variety of means, including systematic departmental reviews involving external reviewers, departmental assessment plans, five-year reviews of general education, surveys of students, alumni, and employers, and participation in UNC system program review. UNCG's programs are compatible with its stated purpose to provide "challenging graduate and undergraduate programs . . . so that students can acquire knowledge, develop intellectual skills, and become more thoughtful and responsible members of a global society." All programs are based upon fields of study appropriate to higher education.

(7) The University Mission statement is clearly defined and appropriate to the University's educational role as a state-supported institution that offers graduate and undergraduate programs in the liberal arts and professions and is charged to teach, to engage in research, and to serve.

(8) The *UNCG Plan 1998-2002* has served the institution well. It identifies and integrates projected educational, physical, and financial development and incorporates procedures for program review and institutional improvement. An active and broad-based planning and evaluation process has been used to update it annually. Work is already underway to develop its successor, the *UNCG Plan 2003-2008*, which will incorporate proposals from this Self-Study as well as other campus and system planning initiatives.

(9) The UNCG *Undergraduate Bulletin* and *The Graduate School Bulletin*, which are revised and published annually in print form as well as on the University Web site, <www.uncg.edu/reg/Catalog/current/menu/index.html> and <www.uncg.edu/grs/bulletin/2001-2002_Bulletin.html>, provide information on admissions standards for all degree programs and certificate programs offered by the University. These standards set requirements for admission which ensure that students are

capable of completing the degrees for which they enroll. They are compatible with the stated purpose of the institution to offer “challenging graduate and undergraduate programs” through the “College of Arts and Sciences and six professional schools.”

(10) Under UNCG’s new General Education Program, effective for new undergraduates beginning Fall 2001, students in all baccalaureate programs offered by the institution are required to complete 36-37 total hours from a list of approved courses in the following categories: humanities and fine arts (12 hours), historical perspectives (3 hours), natural sciences (6-7 hours), mathematics (3 hours), reasoning and discourse (6 hours), social and behavioral sciences (6 hours). The faculty task force which designed the new requirements and the faculty committees which review the courses pay particular attention to ensuring the breadth of subject matter appropriate for an education grounded in the liberal arts. The General Education Program replaces the All-University Liberal Education Requirements, which provided a similar outline of requirements.

(11) In 2001-02, there were 753 budgeted FTE faculty positions, and the student/faculty ratio was 14.7:1. The curriculum vitae of faculty members, as well as annual reports, document their contributions in teaching, advising, research or creative activities, and professional service. In each major in UNCG degree programs, and in concentrations where no major exists, at least one full-time faculty member has been identified with responsibility for supervision and coordination of the major or concentration.

(12) UNCG, both in intent and practice, recognizes that adequate library and other learning resources and services are essential to teaching and learning. UNCG ensures that all students and faculty members have access to a broad range of learning resources to support its mission and all its courses and degree programs at both primary and distance learning sites. The priorities for acquiring materials and establishing and providing services at UNCG are determined with the teaching and learning needs of the faculty and students in mind. The library and other learning resources at UNCG are evaluated regularly and systematically to ensure that they meet the needs of their users and support the programs and purpose of the institution.

(13) Financial resources are sufficient to support all degree programs offered by UNCG. The institution’s recent financial history also demonstrates the financial stability essential to its successful operation. The people of the State of North Carolina passed a \$3.1 billion bond referendum in November 2000 to support capital improvements, of which approximately \$160 million has been allocated to UNCG for new building and renovation projects. Enrollment has continued to grow and UNCG has received additional funding for its enrollment growth. Also, state appropriations to help fund distance learning have been provided. In addition to state support, contract and grant revenues have significantly increased. Total Current Funds Revenues have increased from \$136 million in 1995 to \$183 million in 2000. Although in 2001 and 2002 North Carolina is experiencing budget shortfalls which may affect appropriations in the short term, a tuition increase expected to be approved by the 2002 legislature will temper the effect on the institution.

The University’s FRS accounting system follows the fund accounting principles as promulgated by GASB, NACUBO, the UNC Office of the President, and the Offices of State Auditor

and Controller. The Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs assures that the annual financial statements are transmitted to the Office of the State Controller by the statutory deadline. An external audit is conducted on an annual basis by the Office of State Auditor. The University is not consulted nor involved with this selection. The last three audit reports are dated November 5, 1999, October 12, 2000 and October 19, 2001. All financial statements and related documents will be made available to the Reaffirmation Committee.

UNCG is not a military institution.

6. Initial Membership (1.5)

(1.5, p. 14) UNCG is not seeking initial candidacy for membership, candidacy renewal, or initial membership.

7. Representation of Status (1.6)

(1.6, p. 14) UNCG's relationship with the Commission is described by the following statement, which is published in both the *Undergraduate Bulletin* and *The Graduate School Bulletin*: "The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award Bachelor's, Master's, Specialist's, and Doctor's degrees." No statement about future accreditation by the Commission is made, nor is the Logo or Seal of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools used in any reference to accreditation.

8. Key Documents and Their Locations

The Code of the Board of Governors of UNC: LIB ID 209; www.northcarolina.edu/docs/bog/Code/

The Code of the Board of Trustees of UNCG: LIB ID 207;

www.uncg.edu/cha/UNIVERSITY_COUNSEL/POLICIES_PROCEDURES/BOTcode.html

The University Policy on Ethics and Conflicts of Interest: LIB ID 527 & 528;

www.uncg.edu/cha/UNIVERSITY_COUNSEL/POLICIES_PROCEDURES/Conflict_Interest_Policy.html

Session Laws for the State of North Carolina, Chapter 1244, Sec. 18, 1971; North Carolina

Constitution, Article IX, Sec. 8: LIB ID 539;

www.ncga.state.nc.us/SessionLaws/1971_/default.htm

UNCG Plan 1998-2003: LIB ID 103; www.uncg.edu/cha/uncgplan.htm