

UE150 11th Bi-Annual Convention, November 14-15

RESOLUTION: A Social Justice Approach to Funding Higher Education

In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly raised sales taxes and increased income taxes for the bottom 80% of taxpayers, while cutting taxes for corporations and the top 1% of taxpayers. As a result, the state has lost \$12 billion in tax revenue. The largest public service, the UNC system, has borne the brunt of these cuts.

Since 2013, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) has cut the budget for UNC campuses by \$680 million. Salaries and wages of UNC employees have gone down in real terms, with the spectacular exception of administrators. The BOG has increased tuition and fees since 2010 by 87%, while forcing campus administrations to develop for-profit business models dependent on revenue from students and communities. This for-profit model has entrenched long standing racial, class, and regional inequities. The COVID-19 crisis has aggravated this situation to the breaking point.

The state and UNC system has the resources needed to ensure the security, income, and opportunities for all UNC employees and students. UNC system and campus administrators must refrain from using austerity measures such as layoffs, furloughs, or salary cuts to address financial constraints. UNC campuses are a central element of local economies throughout the state and, properly funded, can serve as the engine of the future social and economic prosperity of North Carolina.

Therefore, be it resolved that this 11th UE150 Convention:

1. Endorses the [Another UNC Is Possible](#) report and campaign, an initiative led by the UNC-Chapel Hill and NCSU chapters of UE150 as part of the [Workers of UNC System](#) coalition.
2. Rejects the use of austerity measures--including worker layoffs, furloughs, and salary reductions--to address budget shortfalls.
3. Demands that the NC General Assembly:
 - a. Roll back the 2013 tax changes to restore robust public funding of higher education
 - b. Withdraw money from the state's Rainy Day Fund for emergency funding of the UNC System
4. Demands that the UNC Board of Governors:
 - a. Divest from fossil fuels and use the proceeds to support the post-pandemic transition
 - b. Withdraw funds from the two largest endowments (UNC-Chapel Hill and NCSU) to make up budget deficits
5. Calls for progressive funding of UNC campuses by shifting new resources to Promise Schools and HBCUs, which enroll a large proportion of economically disadvantaged

Black, Latinx, and Indigenous students.

6. Supports continued UE150 efforts to build alliances with student, faculty, labor, and environmental organizations to promote fiscal justice policies in the North Carolina state government.

Submitted jointly by UNC and NCSU chapters