

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO**

November 2, 2006

PRESENTATION:

Academic Affairs/Information Technology Services Joint Wireless/Laptop Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

These are very exciting times at UNCG. From new curricular and co-curricular programs to new academic, recreational, and residential facilities, UNCG is indeed a campus on the move. A longstanding hallmark of this University is its strong academic environment, providing a rich opportunity for students, faculty and staff to excel and gain recognition for outstanding accomplishments. UNCG has now added the benefits of a wireless computing network, providing our community an important new tool to assist in learning and the development of technological skills.

To make the best use of the wireless network during and outside of class, full-time freshmen entering UNCG in Fall 2006 were encouraged to purchase a wireless laptop computer. In Fall 2007, laptop ownership will be required for full-time entering freshmen.

The decision to move forward with this initiative came after lengthy discussions within and across the Divisions of Academic Affairs [e.g. College/Schools, Deans Council, Faculty Senate, Academic Computing Committee, Academic Technology Coordinating Committee (ATCC)] and the Division of Information Technology Services and consultation with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. We are especially grateful for the technical and infrastructure support received from the Division of Information Technology Services and the efforts of the ATCC. Collaboration between/among University divisions was the key to the success of this initiative. The establishment of the wireless computing environment at UNCG will provide many significant benefits for our students, faculty, and staff.

The student laptop ownership requirement is important for several reasons. Students can be expected to engage in technology-enhanced learning, gaining subject knowledge while also developing stronger communication and technology skills. We believe these wireless devices will lower the barrier to access information for students, foster increased student-instructor and student-student interaction, and lead students to be more active in their learning. These expectations suggest a positive link between wireless technology and improved teaching and learning, a finding reported by other universities with laptop requirements. Finally, UNCG's degree programs require technology skills, and employers demand them in potential hires. The laptop program supports each of these goals and expectations while also offering a cost-effective means for students to obtain the technology tools and technical support they need.

We are hopeful students will utilize UNCG's wireless computing network, and that a laptop computer will help to prepare them for a chosen career, graduate education, and/or other pursuits.

A. Edward Uprichard
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

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Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Services