INFORMATION ITEM: Peer Selection 2011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In May 2011 UNC-GA initiated a review/update process with each of the UNC system campuses, with the goal of submitting a set of peers for each campus to the BOG for their October 6-7, 2011 meeting.

The last Peer Study conducted by UNC was in 2006. Since 2006 there have been many changes across higher education, both inside and outside the state of North Carolina. The 2011 Peer Study provides the opportunity to reassess campus peers using more recent national data and considering current economic realities.

The 2011 Peer Study will result in a set of institutional peers that will be used as comparison points in areas such as tuition and fees, retention and graduation rates, faculty salaries, faculty workload and teaching load, space utilization, faculty diversity, endowments, financial aid, budget, and fiscal measures such as sources/types of revenues/expenditures.

David H. Perrin
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Attachment
September 7, 2011

Dear Dr. Ortega,

Below this message you will find the description of the process UNCG has engaged in since May 2011 to develop the 2011 UNC-approved set of institutional peers for UNCG, along with the list of current UNCG Peers, approved in 2006, and the revised list of proposed 2011 UNCG peers, including a separately identified list of aspirant peers. A previous version of the proposed list submitted to UNC-GA in July 2011 included 23 peers and 6 aspirant campuses. UNCG has reduced these to 15 peers and 3 aspirant campuses.

The following process was used to identify these potential peers. Using the peer selection tool prepared by the Institutional Research staff at UNC-GA, we selected public campuses in our basic Carnegie class that are most similar to UNCG on each of following 14 variables:

- Retention rate
- 6 Year Graduation rate
- UG Tuition and Fees
- Degrees awarded
- Student Headcount
- Average Faculty Salary
- Number of instructional faculty
- Percent of degrees in education
- Percent of degrees in humanities and social sciences
- Percent of expenditures on instruction
- Percent Minority
- Percent of UG FTE
- Percent of UG receiving Grant Aid
- Percent of UG receiving Pell Grants

Institutions were rank ordered (high to low) based on the number of the above criteria for which they were similar to UNCG. The ranked list was shared with the Provost’s Deans Council to review. The Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development prepared a separate list of High and Very High Research institutions which also have earned the Carnegie classification on Community Engagement. The Dean of the Library requested to review library statistics available from the 2008 administration of the IPEDS Library Survey, including:

- Holdings: Books, serial backfiles and other
- Expenditures for Books, serial backfiles and other
- Total Expenditures
- Total Staff in FTE
The lists and criteria were cross-referenced to identify campuses that continue to show similarities to UNCG on as many items as possible, with specific attention given to student headcount, graduation rates, retention rates, UG tuition and fees, average faculty salary, Community Engagement, and library holdings and expenditures. Members of Deans Council made a number of iterative recommendations of specific campuses to consider as peers or aspirants. A preliminary version of 23 peers and six aspirant campuses was submitted to UNC-GA in July. In preparation for an August 30th teleconference between representatives of UNCG and UNC-GA, UNCG reduced these lists to fifteen peers and four aspirant campuses. In the course of the phone discussion, the lists were revised further to propose a total of eighteen campuses, fifteen peers and three aspirant campuses, with the GA goal of having no more than two campuses from any single US state. The finalist candidates were presented to the UNCG Deans Council and the UNCG Chancellor for final consultation in early September. Upon campus leadership approval, the 2011 UNC-approved peers for UNCG are presented at the bottom of this memo for UNC Board of Governors review and approval. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the process I have described or these proposed UNCG peer institutions.

Sincerely,

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UNCG 2006 Peers
- Bowling Green State University
- College Of William and Mary
- Florida Atlantic University-Boca Raton
- George Mason University
- Georgia State University
- Miami University-Oxford
- Northern Illinois University
- Ohio University-Main Campus
- Portland State University
- SUNY at Binghamton
- University Of Alabama
- University of Delaware
- University Of Massachusetts-Lowell
- University Of Southern Mississippi
- University Of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Western Michigan University

UNCG 2011 Proposed Peers
Current peers are indicated in bold italics

- Bowling Green State University-Main Campus
- Florida International University
- Indiana State University
- Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis
- Kent State University Kent Campus
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Northern Illinois University
- Old Dominion University
- Portland State University
- The University of Texas at Arlington
- University of Louisville
- University of Memphis
- University of Southern Mississippi
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Western Michigan University

UNCG 2011 Proposed Aspirant Peers

- Georgia State University
- Oregon State University
- University of Central Florida