University of Northern Colorado
Financial Accountability Plan
Executive Summary
November 2010

UNC's Approach to the FAP

As a result of the economic realities of state funding reductions and our own enrollment and retention realties, we began in 2004 to develop a more holistic, data-informed approach to enrollment and financial planning, pricing, and financial aid awarding. This effort included a significant investment in an integrated campus-wide data system, an extensive pricing study, and the development of an office of enrollment management.

The resulting improvements in how we collect and analyze enrollment and student success data have allowed us to become much more targeted and strategic in helping a diverse array of students succeed at UNC, setting tuition, and awarding financial aid. You will notice in our FAP the results of using this data-driven approach to determine where we invest our time and resources.

Our FAP also emphasizes the interconnected nature of these data and the decisions they inform. We have focused on three key areas of integration: 1) Linking student access with student success, 2) linking strategic pricing with individualized financial aid awarding, and 3) linking financial expertise with expertise in matters of student success.

1. Student Access + Student Success

UNC promises students a university experience that engages them not only in completing the academic credit hours to earn a degree, but also in the intellectual life of a scholarly community, which includes research and graduate programs, mentoring and advising, and experiences beyond the classroom that prepare them to be productive citizens of a changing, complex and global society. *Just as important as this promise is the fact that we fulfill it for a diverse array of students.*

UNC serves a significant number of students who are first-generation, identify themselves as ethnic minorities, and/or meet federal low-income definitions. *Research demonstrates that these students often require higher levels of support in order to graduate.* UNC works to meet the needs of these underserved and underrepresented students through an array of targeted services including:

- A research-based, individualized approach to student academic support and the first-year experience;
- Federally funded TRiO programs that support career exploration, academic counseling, summer enrichment programs, and workshops for students and parents on topics including study skills and time management;
- The McNair Scholars program, which pairs underrepresented students with faculty mentors to conduct research; and
- Northern Colorado Upward Bound, which serves first-generation, low-income, and minority high school students while building the college pipeline.

We also adopt some of the practices developed to serve underrepresented populations for use with the entire student population. For example, in fall 2009, UNC launched its University College, an academic home for "exploring" students (i.e., those who have not declared an academic major), students on academic probation, interdisciplinary majors, and highly motivated students in programs to challenge them in the areas of original research and civic leadership. The University College, which is unique among public higher education institutions in Colorado, now serves almost 3,000 students.

2. Strategic Pricing + Individualized Financial Aid Awarding

UNC began developing a mission-based, market-driven approach to pricing and financial aid awarding in 2004. This approach is our way of making the crucial connection between price and access. Selective use of differential tuition, consistent principles for charging fees, and individualized financial aid awards are essential to meeting the needs of our diverse student population.

In developing pricing strategies, we use the following principles, which emerged from our 2004 strategic pricing task force:

- Pricing should ensure the continuation of an excellent university experience for students;
- Pricing should be consistent with the value of services as perceived by students, parents, and Colorado citizens;
- Pricing should be *consistent with public policy for access* and programmatic demand; and
- Pricing should be considered *in concert with financial aid polices.*

By collecting and using data about the needs and expectations of our students, the costs of our academic programs, and the efficacy of our financial aid practices and predictive enrollment modeling, we are developing a better understanding of the relationship between price, financial aid, and enrollment. This allows us to make pricing decisions that are appropriate to the market and also support UNC's mission as a public institution and tradition of serving students from underserved and underrepresented groups.

We have learned that how and what we communicate with students and their families is now more important than ever. We aim to shape—and as often as possible, to participate in—the kitchen table discussions our prospective students are having about whether UNC is right for them. One part of this discussion is about the effect of financial aid on the "sticker price" of a UNC education. Intuitively, both the sticker price and the net price after discounting matter to the student. The sticker price influences whether students will apply, while the net price influences whether they will enroll and complete their education. Research shows that such decisions vary by student demographics and institutional characteristics, so we pursue financial aid strategies most effective for our particular students and the unique characteristics of our institution.

3. Expertise + Collaboration

In order to take this integrated approach to student access and success, pricing, and financial aid awarding, we have developed collaborative systems that connect our financial experts with our experts in matters of student recruiting and success, and we rely heavily on assessment. To fulfill

our promise to students, we make decisions grounded in our mission and informed by the best available data, we collaboratively assess the effectiveness of our efforts, and we make adjustments based on what we have learned. This collaboration among experts is in keeping with one of the key tenets of our university planning framework: "We, as an institution, will exemplify the critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and leadership abilities we teach our students."

Key Ideas in Section I: Process for Development of the FAP

The development of the FAP was an extension of UNC's financial planning process, which is part of overall university planning. Our approach to financial planning includes a rolling three-year enrollment and financial plan that serves as the basis for annual budget decisions. For purposes of the FAP, we expanded our financial plan to the required five-year timeframe.

Key Ideas in Section II: Requested Tuition Increase

For resident undergraduate students we are requesting the following average tuition increases:

FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
15%	15%	12%	9%	9%
$702	$807	$743	$624	$680

In keeping with the focus of our pricing principles—providing students an excellent university experience that is consistent with its perceived value, supporting access and programmatic demand, and linking pricing with financial aid awarding—factors to be considered in the average tuition increase each year include:

- Programmatic tuition differentials;
- Upper/lower division tuition differentials, based on considerations such as class sizes and support services;
- Size of the free credit hour "window"; and
- Financial aid needs.

While tuition would increase 15% on average, the increase for individual students could vary depending on their major and program level, the number of hours they take, and their financial need. For example, a student majoring in interdisciplinary studies-elementary teaching might see an 8% increase, with the increase for students in programs such as business and natural sciences being closer to 20%. In either instance, financial aid would help to offset the increase for low- and middle-income students, as discussed in Section III.

Assuming an FY12 state higher education budget of $555 million and the institutional distributions approved Sept. 8, 2010, by the CCHE, UNC would allocate new tuition revenue approximately as follows:

- 25% to new institutional financial aid;
- 25% to investments in academic quality and student success services (as discussed in section V); and
- 50% to backfill decreased state funding and cover operational cost increases, which include a 3% pool for the first faculty/staff salary increase in three years.

Key Ideas in Section III: Protection of Low- and Middle-Income Students

UNC uses research data to individualize financial aid packages (discounting) for students. An example of this research is in Appendix III, which shows a yield analysis of our students in terms of both financial and academic characteristics.

While scholarships with criteria such as demographic eligibility, selected academic program, and merit are essential components of our individualized financial aid packages, we also set aside a portion of our institutional aid specifically for resident need-based aid. This is part of fulfilling our mission as a public institution.

UNC's minimum commitment to need-based aid over the five-year FAP timeframe is shown below.

	Amount	Annual Increase	Percent Change	Res UG Increase
FY12	$4.1	$.60	17%	15%
FY13	$4.7	$.60	15%	15%
FY14	$5.4	$.70	15%	12%
FY15	$6.2	$.80	15%	9%
FY16	$7.1	$.90	15%	9%

(in millions)

This need-based aid will be directed first to Level 1 students based on our evolving financial aid models. Given current data and assuming constant levels of federal and state aid, need-based aid packages would be approximately:

- $0 EFC students: $5,550 Pell, $900 State need-based grant, $300 Institutional need-based aid;
- EFC up to $5,273: $1,176-$5,500 Pell, $900 State need-based grant, $2,000 Institutional need-based grant; and
- EFC up to $7,910: $900 State need-based grant, $1,500 Institutional need-based grant.

Other scholarships from both private donors and institutional funds will supplement this need-based aid for many low- and middle-income students. Our total annual growth in institutional scholarships would average $2.4 million over the five-year FAP period.

Key Ideas in Section IV: Student Debt Load

UNC's efforts to individualize financial aid practices help to mitigate student reliance on debt. For resident undergraduate students attending UNC between FY07 to FY10, the portion of the financial aid package from loans declined from 89% to 80%. UNC students complete their degrees with the third lowest debt load in Colorado.

Before receiving a loan at UNC students must complete entrance counseling through a Federal Government website (https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action). It takes about 30 minutes to complete and ensures that students are prepared to make informed decisions about taking out different types of student loans. If for some reason a student is unable to complete the question and answer session online, time with a financial aid counselor is set aside to explain each question more thoroughly.

Key Ideas in Section V: Address the Needs of Underserved and Underrepresented Students

UNC will invest approximately 25% of its new tuition revenue in continuing to build services that support student success, as previously described in the explanation of UNC's approach to the FAP. Specific initiatives include:

- Further development of data about what is essential to help students reach their education goals;
- Implementation of a customer relations management system to individualize communication to students from the recruitment period throughout their academic career, allowing us to address unique needs of underserved and underrepresented student populations;
- Use of "academic coach" positions to support low-income, first-generation, underrepresented populations who come to UNC through the Denver Scholarship Foundation and Daniels Fund;
- The fall 2011 launch of a new "UNIV 101" course tailored to the needs of the "fledgling learner" making the transition to university-level instruction, which will be of particular importance to first-generation students, who often lack a frame of reference for coping with the college experience;
- Continued development of the Office of Veteran Services UNC created in 2010 to facilitate the entry or re-entry of military veterans into higher education, providing support throughout the continuum of a veteran's student experience; and
- Continued development of the Stryker Institute for Leadership Development, launched in 2001 to advance the leadership development of talented women students from underrepresented minority groups, especially women of non-traditional age and high financial need.

COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY, AFFORDABLE EDUCATION FOR ALL COLORADANS

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

OCTOBER 1, 2010

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1560 Broadway, Suite 1600 • Denver, Colorado 80202 • (303) 866-2723

D. RICO MUNN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INTRODUCTION/RATIONALE

Senate Bill 10-03 grants Colorado institutions of higher education greater flexibility in setting tuition, while ensuring that institutions provide protection for low and middle income students.

Beginning in FY 2011-2012, those governing boards seeking increased flexibility are required to submit five-year financial accountability plans (FAPs) to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) for review and approval. Increased flexibility, for the purposes of this document, is defined as seeking to increase tuition rates for undergraduate students with in-state classification by more than nine percent per student or nine percent per credit hour over the tuition rate for the preceding fiscal year.

SB 10-03 requires that institutional governing boards, at a minimum, include the following in the FAP:

A. The percentage rate increase for tuition;
B. The manner in which the governing board shall ensure that access and affordability for enrollment of low and middle income students will be preserved, taking into account the availability of federal, state, institutional, and private monies;
C. Measures the institution will take to reduce student debt load, including the amount of institutional funds the governing board will allocate to need-based financial assistance;
D. How the institution will address the needs of underserved and underrepresented students;
E. Assurance that operational flexibility provided in statute will not reduce the Level of service and quality.

Following submission of a FAP, the CCHE will have 90 days to review and either approve or deny the governing board's request for a tuition increase. In approving the plan, the CCHE may approve the request for two years and make the approval for the subsequent three years conditional on the governing board's success in implementing the plan. If a plan is denied, the governing board may submit an alternative plan to the CCHE in accordance with the adopted timelines. Once approved, FAPs become part of the CCHE annual budget recommendation to the Joint Budget Committee.

The CCHE will provide an additional opportunity for adjustments to approved FAPs should there be a significant change in budget projections based on the spring (2011) forecast. CCHE will not accept new FAP's during this time.

KEY DATES FOR FY 2011-2012

- CDHE public release of FAP template to institutions: **July 30, 2010**
- Governing Board/Institution Submission of FAPs to CCHE: **August 2, 2010-October 1,** 2010
- CCHE analysis/negotiation of FAPs: **August 20, 2010-October 29, 2010**
- CCHE adoption of final FAP recommendations: **December 4, 2010**
- Submission of CCHE recommendations to Joint Budget Committee: **December 10, 2010**
- March, 2011: **The CCHE will provide an additional opportunity for adjustments to approved FAP's should there be a significant change in budget projections based on the spring (2011) forecast.**

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Through this process, governing boards are requesting the authority to raise tuition up to the stated maximum declared in this FAP. It is understood that governing boards will make final tuition setting decisions during their normal budgeting process. Approval of this FAP is not an indication of final tuition rates at any given institution.
2. FY 2007-2010 institutional data are utilized in this template for the purposes of establishing baseline metrics. The CCHE will update metrics annually.
3. Data sources used to establish baseline data include Student Unit Record Data System (SURDS) and Budget Data Book (BDB).
4. The CCHE has established key dates to comply with SB 10-03 statutory requirements.
5. Governing boards/institutions will address agreed upon common metrics outlined in this template but may also provide additional data and narrative to support strategies employed by their institution(s) to ensure accessibility and affordability for underrepresented students including, at a minimum, low and middle income, first generation, and ethnic minorities during the period outlined in the FAP.
6. If applicable, list below any additional institutional/governing board assumptions utilized in the development of this FAP:

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SECTION I: PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAP

Describe the consultative process used to develop the FAP. Include information on advisory committee meetings, public hearings and any other forums held on campus to discuss the tuition plan. Please also describe how the development of the FAP speaks to your institution's role and mission.

The development of the FAP was an extension of UNC's internal financial planning process which is part of overall university planning. Our approach to financial planning includes a rolling three-year enrollment and financial plan that serves as the basis for annual budget decisions. For purposes of the FAP, we expanded our financial plan to the required five-year timeframe. Significant milestones include:

July 2009	Cost containment measures including voluntary separation incentive plan implemented.
Fall 2009	Potential cumulative state funding (FY11-FY16) loss of $14 million identified for planning purposes. Campus-wide discussions held about revenue generation, cost containment and operational changes.
January 2010	FY11-FY13 enrollment projections prepared by cross-functional academic and administrative team.
Spring 2010	Undergraduate and graduate enrollment management strategies including recruitment, retention activities, discounting and student support services updated. Presentation to Board March 2010.
March/April 2010	Parameters and assumptions for multi-year financial planning discussed with campus-wide leaders including student leadership.
July 2010	Five-year (FY12-FY16) enrollment projections developed by cross-functional academic and administrative team.
August 2010	Financial planning parameters (FY12-FY16) developed by cross-functional academic and administrative team. Tuition and discounting pricing strategies reviewed.
September 2010	$5 million target set for sustainable costs savings to be identified by reinvention of our operations.
September 2010	Five-year (FY12-FY16) Financial Planning Scenarios, including various tuition and discounting rates, discussed with Board of Trustees. Additional discussion with campus-wide leaders including student leadership.
October 2010	FAP based on UNC's financial plan submitted to DHE.
Fall 2010	Report and analysis of data on admissions, yield, retention, discounting, etc. to be reviewed and used to revise pricing, discounting and financial planning.

The FAP is based on our internal financial planning that is firmly grounded in UNC's role and mission, summarized as providing students access to an exemplary teaching and learning community. Our promise to students is to give them a university experience that is more than just an accumulation of credit hours, an experience that includes research, graduate programs, community involvement, and complementary services essential to student success. The FAP provides pricing and discounting data for resident undergraduates and also includes data with a broader perspective, since serving resident undergraduate students is not an isolated activity. The diversity and integration of the whole student population, as well as

the breadth and depth of both undergraduate and graduate programs, affect the resident undergraduate experience.

SECTION II: REQUESTED TUITION INCREASE

Please detail the governing board/institution requested tuition increase (or range of increases) beginning FY2011-12. Include (based on five-year projections):

- *Year-to-year dollar amount/ percent increase per credit hour for resident students*
- *Differential tuition amounts (if applicable)*
- *Tuition window adjustments(if applicable)*
- *Net expected revenue projections*

The tuition allocation model currently approved by CCHE includes a reduction of state funding for UNC of $5.8 million in FY12, which represents 14.2% of UNC's current state funding. This cut, combined with the FY11 reduction of $3.5 million, equates to a 20.9% loss from our FY10 funding level. In light of these significant reductions, UNC is requesting average undergraduate resident tuition increases of 15% in FY12 and FY13 and 12% in FY14.

UNC's internal financial planning process includes a five-year projection of revenues and expenses (Appendix I, page 1) that incorporates tuition rate increases as shown in Tables 1 and 2. With regard to undergraduate resident tuition rates, these increases would still place UNC's tuition below most of its peers (Appendix I, page 2).

For simplicity's sake the percentage and dollar increases reflected in Table 1 and Table 2 are shown as a single number (e.g., 15%). These represent the average increases for any given year and correspond to an overall total tuition revenue projection. In other words, the 15% increase for both FY12 and FY13 is an average rate increase that would result in 15% growth in annual gross revenue (before discounting). In addition to this rate-based revenue growth, UNC is projecting undergraduate enrollment increases of 2% that result in additional revenue. It is our intent to continue to differentiate tuition pricing consistent with UNC's mission, differential costs, demand, the needs of our students, and market research. While tuition would increase 15% on average, the increase for individual students could vary depending on their major and program level, the number of hours they take, and their financial need. For example, a student majoring in interdisciplinary studies-elementary teaching might see an 8% increase, with the increase for students in programs such as business and natural sciences being closer to 20%. Pricing strategies have been regularly discussed with the Board of Trustees since 2004, when a comprehensive tuition pricing study, presented to the Board, resulted in UNC's first program-based differential tuition rates (Appendix II).

While the state's investment in public higher education appears to be targeted at the production of undergraduate credit hours, we remain committed to providing students with a comprehensive university experience. We know this means that our pricing will have to be more strategic. We will continue to differentiate prices by academic program and by masters vs. doctoral level. We will consider differentiation by upper and lower division for undergraduates and changes to our "free credit" window. Annual decisions about these strategies will be made by our Board based on our continuously improving analysis of program costs, student needs, and market research. Table 3 reflects projected tuition rates for our undergraduate academic programs that are currently priced differentially.

Table 1

Undergraduate Tuition Rates						
	FY11 Actual	FY12 Projected	FY13 Projected	FY14 Projected	FY15 Projected	FY16 Projected
Resident Tuition (based on 12-16 credit hours)*						
Percentage Increase	9%	15%	15%	12%	9%	9%
Annual Rate Increase	$384	$702	$807	$743	$624	$680
Annual Rate	$4,680	$5,382	$6,189	$6,932	$7,556	$8,236
Student Share Per Credit Hour Rate	$195	$224	$258	$289	$315	$343
Non-Resident Tuition (based on 12-16 credit hours)*						
Percentage Increase	9%	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%	6%	6%
Annual Rate Increase	$1,320	$1,031	$1,098	$1,170	$1,150	$1,219
Annual Rate	$15,864	$16,895	$17,993	$19,163	$20,313	$21,531
Student Share Per Credit Hour Rate	$661	$704	$750	$798	$846	$897

*Tuition is charged for credits 1-12 and 17 on up; annual rate is for 12-16 credit hours.

Table 2

Graduate Tuition Rates						
	FY11 Actual	FY12 Projected	FY13 Projected	FY14 Projected	FY15 Projected	FY16 Projected
Resident Tuition						
Percentage Increases	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
Resident Annual Rates (based on 18 credit hours)						
Masters	$5,562-$6,678	$6,390-$7,686	$7,344-$8,838	$8,442-$10,170	$9,702-$11,700	$11,160-$13,464
Doctoral	$6,498-$7,794	$7,470-$8,964	$8,586-$10,314	$9,882-$11,862	$11,358-$13,644	$13,068-$15,696
Resident Per Credit Hour Rates						
Masters	$309 - $371	$355 - $427	$408 - $491	$469 - $565	$539 - $650	$620 - $748
Doctoral	$361 - $433	$415 - $498	$477 - $573	$549 - $659	$631 - $758	$726 - $872
Non-Resident Tuition						
Percentage Increases	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
Non-Resident Annual Rates (based on 18 credit hours)						
Masters	$14,202-$15,300	$16,326-$17,604	$18,774-$20,250	$21,582-$23,292	$24,822-$26,784	$28,548-$30,798
Doctoral	$16,560-$17,856	$19,044-$20,538	$21,906-$23,616	$25,200-$27,162	$28,980-$31,230	$33,336-$35,910
Non-Resident Per Credit Hour Rates						
Masters	$789 - $850	$907 - $978	$1,043 - $1,125	$1,199-$1,294	$1,379 - $1,488	$1,586 - $1,711
Doctoral	$920 - $992	$1,058 - $1,141	$1,217 - $1,312	$1,400-$1,509	$1,610 - $1,735	$1,852 - $1,995

Table 3

Differential Tuition Rates						
	FY11 Actual	FY12 Projected	FY13 Projected	FY14 Projected	FY15 Projected	FY16 Projected
Differential Tuition						
Percentage Increase	9%	15%	15%	12%	9%	9%
Differential Annual Rates (based on 18 credit hours)*						
Business	$531	$611	$702	$787	$857	$934
Music, Music Theatre, Theatre, Dance	$423	$486	$559	$627	$683	$744
Nursing	$819	$942	$1,083	$1,213	$1,322	$1,441

*Tuition differentials are in addition to the base rates and apply only to courses within the student's major, about 60% of a student's total course of study.

Our institutional discounting has doubled in the past two years. In FY10 approximately 24% of our tuition revenue was reinvested in institutional scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students (Table 4). Undergraduate tuition and discounting (Table 5) comprise the largest portion of our tuition revenue. We will continue to increase our institutional discounting, although at a slower rate of growth. Coupled with this effort is the development of greater sophistication in our communications with students to convey the difference between the "sticker price" and discounted tuition. Our recruiters and financial aid counselors work together closely so that discounting information is provided to prospective students and parents early in the admissions process. This information is also communicated to high school counselors and community leaders who are in a position to work with prospective students and parents. As an additional means of pricing transparency, UNC will be implementing the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) net price calculator for students.

Table 4

Institutional Tuition Discounting FY08 Through FY11				
	FY08 Actual	**FY09 Actual**	**FY10 Actual**	**FY11 Budget**
Tuition	$50,733,637	$54,432,163	$62,001,616	$68,716,930
Institutional Scholarships	$7,160,964	$9,718,825	$14,846,385	$15,406,587
Discounted Revenue	$43,572,673	$44,713,338	$47,155,231	$53,310,343
Discount Percent	14.1%	17.9%	24.0%	22.4%

Table 5

Undergraduate Tuition Discounting			
	Undergraduate Tuition*	**Institutional Scholarships**	**Discounted Revenue**
FY08 Actual	$43,750,738	$6,027,954	$37,722,784
FY09 Actual	$46,500,947	$8,153,005	$38,347,942
FY10 Actual	$51,697,248	$12,525,218	$39,172,030
FY11 Budget	$56,680,782	$12,452,811	$44,227,971
FY12 Projections	$66,177,000	$14,784,000	$51,393,000
FY13 Projections	$75,991,000	$17,238,000	$58,753,000
FY14 Projections	$85,553,000	$19,629,000	$65,924,000
FY15 Projections	$94,213,000	$21,794,000	$72,419,000
FY16 Projections	$103,762,000	$24,181,000	$79,581,000

* excludes COF stipend; i.e. student share of tuition only

SECTION III: PROTECTION OF LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME STUDENTS

Describe the projected financial aid available (federal, state, institutional & private moneys) to students to mitigate the impact of any increase in tuition and fees. Describe how any additional institutional monies from increased tuition will be allocated to financial aid and how it will be awarded. Specifically address strategies as they relate to providing assistance to low and middle income students.

On the included Excel spreadsheet ("Institutional Data for FAP 2010"), we have included a distribution of Pell recipients for Colorado resident, undergraduate students at Colorado institutions (see tab labeled "PellEligFTE." Please verify if correct and, if needed, provide updated figures.

While UNC is committed to making a university education as affordable as possible, we also believe that protecting low- and middle-income students means giving them access to a university experience where they can be successful. We believe that focusing solely on financial aid packaging does not protect low- and middle-income students. We must also be attentive to the quality of academic programs and student support services, particularly for low- and middle-income students who come from families without a history of college attendance.

As UNC enrolls increasing numbers of students from high-need populations, we do these students a profound disservice if we focus exclusively on ameliorating rises in our price point. It is well established in national research that students with high need-based financial aid awards tend to persist at lower rates than the general population[1.] UNC is increasing its support services geared to low-income, first-generation, and under-represented minority students. Access, to be meaningful, must be access to academic success. The support needed to foster such success has a cost, even when delivered efficiently. We intend to direct revenues derived from tuition increases, not just to discounting, but also toward enhancing the capacity of our existing support services in advising, tutoring, and mentoring. Some of these programs are discussed in Section V.

According to a March 2010 article from *Inside Higher Education*[2], tuition discounting reached an all-time high at private colleges and universities in 2008. The article goes on to discuss the complexity, risks, and rewards of discounting, or use of financial aid. Data from a number of sources, including the College Board and NACUBO, confirm the upward trends in discounting. It is also clear that public higher education is using discounting to a greater extent. UNC is no exception as shown in Table 4 of the previous section.

Effectively using institutional dollars to attract and retain both low- and middle-income students is more than just a simple net price calculation. Intuitively, both sticker price and net price, after discounting, matter to the student. The sticker price influences whether students will apply, while the net price influences whether they will enroll and complete their education. These decisions vary by student demographics (e.g., race, gender, marital status, family income, parents' educational attainment, occupational status, academic ability) and institutional characteristics (tuition sticker price, discounting, location, reputation, selectivity, special programs, and curriculum[3]).

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[1] Citation information link: http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008174

[2] "Slashing Prices" *Inside Higher Education*. March 31, 2010

[3] DesJardins, Ahlburg & McCall. "An Integrated Model of Application, Admission, Enrollment, and Financial Aid". *The Journal of Higher* Education May/June 2006.

Recognizing the complexity and individualized nature of both sticker price and discounting, UNC has been aggressively pursuing financial aid strategies that are most effective for our particular students, given UNC's unique characteristics. This involves a combination of researching available literature, developing statistical models to analyze UNC data, and using straightforward empirical evidence – whether students are meeting their educational goals and how they report that financial factors are affecting their success. For example, we interview students who withdraw to better understand attrition and modify our student support services and financial aid policies accordingly.

Appendix III is a series of charts showing the enrollment and yield rates of UNC students cross-tabulated by need and academic ability. This is an example of the kind of analysis we are doing to better understand how we can effectively use financial aid. We are pleased to report that our research-informed approach is resulting in empirical success.

For four years (FY06-FY09) UNC had been experiencing a decrease in low- and middle-income students as measured by being "Pell eligible". (In general, UNC defines low-income students as Pell-eligible and middle-income students with the CCHE Level 1 definition, up to 150% of Pell eligibility.) Beginning in 2009, UNC implemented new financial aid strategies for needy students while simultaneously increasing institutional discounting. These results are paying off in terms of our Pell eligible students (Table 6).

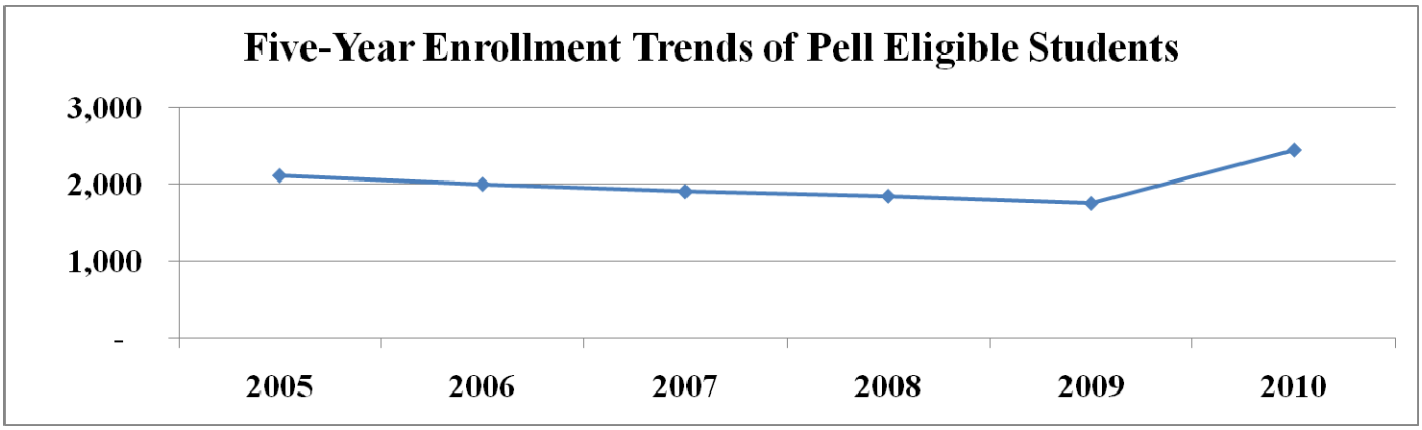
As shown in Appendix III yield rates are generally highest for UNC's neediest students (i.e., EFC between $0 and $6,926) with CCHE Index scores between 94 and 111. UNC has lower yield rates for less financially needy and better prepared students. From our declined admissions studies we know that these students tend to choose out-of-state and private four-year institutions. The number of new first-time freshmen resident admits in the highest need category ($0 EFC) has increased from 197 in Fall 2008 to 519 in Fall 2010.

UNC is continuing to gather and analyze data to better understand how this ultimately impacts student success, including graduation rates.

Table 6

Pell Eligibile Students FY05-FY10			
Year	**Pell Eligible**	**Total**	**Pell Eligible**
2005	2,111	8,875	23.79%
2006	1,998	8,922	22.40%
2007	1,903	8,831	21.55%
2008	1,843	8,629	21.36%
2009	1,750	7,937	22.05%
2010	2,446	8,188	29.87%

Chart 1



As state support for both financial aid and the College Opportunity Fund declines, the challenge to protect low- and middle-income students will become greater. Increases in federal grants, primarily Pell, have been helpful. For example, we took advantage of the changes in Pell rules for summer by expanding course offerings for students, giving them the opportunity to use summer Pell grants and to graduate more quickly.

We are also committed to maximizing private sources of funding. During the past year we have worked extensively with our foundation to refocus its activities and more closely integrate fund-raising with university priorities. As part of that restructuring, a new Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations joined UNC in October. She has extensive development experience in both public and private higher education, and we believe she will be a catalyst for a more robust level of private scholarships. In FY07 private financial aid was $6.7 million and increased to $7.7 million by FY10. Private scholarships tend not to be strictly need-based grants. They generally include criteria such as membership affiliation with an organization, demographic-based eligibility, and/or merit-based requirements. However, there is no question that these kinds of scholarships often benefit low- and middle-income students.

Table 7 reflects historical and projected federal, state, and institutional grants that are strictly need-based, including work-study grant aid. As state grants have declined in real dollars and purchasing power, UNC has more than doubled institutional grants for students.

Table 7

Historical and Projected Grant Aid by Source for Undergraduates

Source	FY07 Actual	FY08 Actual	FY09 Actual	FY10 Actual	FY11 Projected
Federal	$5.6	$5.8	$6.2	$10.5	$12.3
State	$3.3	$4.3	$4.6	$4.2	$3.5
Institutional	$1.4	$1.7	$2.1	$5.0	$3.7
Other Aid	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Total Grant Aid	**$10.3**	**$11.8**	**$12.9**	**$19.7**	**$19.5**

(in millions)

Given the reality of the decline in state funding, we will need to rely on institutional funds (other students' tuition) to provide a full array of financial aid to all students, including low- and middle-income students. Tables 4 and 5 in the previous section show our overall projections. Specifically focusing on resident undergraduate need-based grants, we intend to increase the institutional commitment by 17% in FY12 and

at least 15% per year in FY13 through FY16 (Table 8). This is equal to or greater than our tuition rate increase percentages.

Institutional grants for residents increased by a dramatic 145% in FY10. As part of our research-based approach to financial aid, we developed statistical award models based on historical data and then were aggressive in our offers. We had far more students accept offers than historical data predicted; we suspect that is due to changes in the overall economic environment. As a result, we overspent our budget by $2.4 million for a total of $4.9 million. We covered this by applying one-time funding to the over-expenditure. Accordingly, we have adjusted our financial aid strategies to keep the institutional need-based grants at the $3.5 million level for FY11 (a $1.0 million increase from the prior year's budget), with the intention of growing to at least $7.0 million by FY16. During the five-year planning horizon we are projecting that 25% of new undergraduate revenue will be used for institutional aid. As we continue to gather data and test it against our models, both the total amount of institutional financial aid and the mix of need-based, merit, and other awards will continue to change. Nonetheless, with the tuition increases described in Section I, we are committed, at a minimum, to the need-based amounts reflected in Table 8.

Table 8

Institutional Grants: Resident Undergraduate Need-based Aid Historical Trend and Projections				
	Amount	**Annual Increase**	**Percent Change**	**Res UG Tuition Increase**
FY07	$1.4			
FY08	$1.7	$0.30	21%	9%
FY09	$2.0	$0.30	18%	9%
FY10	$4.9	$2.90	145%	9%
FY11 (Note 1)	$3.5	-$1.40	-29%	9%
FY12	$4.1	$0.60	17%	15%
FY13	$4.7	$0.60	15%	15%
FY14	$5.4	$0.70	15%	12%
FY15	$6.2	$0.80	15%	9%
FY16	$7.1	$0.90	15%	9%

(in millions)

Note 1: In FY10 we overspent our institutional discount budget by almost $3.0 million. We covered this by applying one-time funding to the over-expenditure. The actual institutional discounting for FY10 reflects an artificially high base against which to compare FY11. We are using 25% of increased revenue for institutional discounting.

This need-based aid will be directed first to Level 1 students using our evolving models. Based on current data and assuming constant federal and state funding, need-based aid packages would be approximately:

- $0 EFC students: $5,550 Pell, $900 State need-based grant, $300 Institutional need-based aid;
- EFC up to $5,273: $1,176-$5,500 Pell, $900 State need-based grant, $2,000 Institutional need-based grant; and
- EFC up to $7,910: $900 State need-based grant, $1,500 Institutional need-based grant.

Other scholarships from both private donors and institutional funds will supplement this need-based aid for many low- and middle-income students. Our total annual growth in institutional scholarships would average $2.4 million over the five-year FAP period.

SECTION IV: STUDENT DEBT LOAD

Describe the measures the governing board shall implement to help reduce student debt load as a result of tuition/fee increases.
On the included Excel spreadsheet ("Institutional Data for FAP 2010"), we have included a distribution of loan data for Colorado resident, undergraduate students at Colorado institutions (see tabs labeled "averageFedloans" and "#studentswFedloans." Please verify if correct and, if needed, provide updated figures.

As discussed in Section III, UNC is committed both to providing discounts for those students who most need it and to cost-effectively providing students access to quality academic programs and complementary support services that allow the students to meet their educational goals. This is our commitment to "student success." In support of this commitment, UNC is using a research-based approach to develop comprehensive financial aid strategies segmented by student population. Appendix V is another example of our internal analyses which show that:

- Between FY07 and FY10, the percentage of full-time resident undergraduate students receiving some form of financial aid increased from 70% to 80%.
- At the same time **the portion of their financial aid package that was loans declined from 89% to 80%.**
- In part, this is due to the increased investment in institutional aid in terms of absolute dollars and more widespread awards; in FY10 42% of resident undergraduates received institutional aid as compared to 20% in FY07.

In 2009, baccalaureate graduates at UNC completed their degrees with the third-lowest average student debt load in Colorado (Table 9).

Table 9

Adams State College	$20,013
Colorado School of Mines	$21,503
Colorado State University	$19,854
Colorado State University Pueblo	$22,393
Fort Lewis College	$18,039
Mesa State College	$20,672
Metropolitan State College of Denver	$22,650
University of Colorado- Boulder	$19,961
University of Colorado-Colorado Springs	$19,487
University of Colorado at Denver	$24,224
University of Northern Colorado	$18,539
Western State College	$18,229

Source: JBC Staff Briefing 02/23/10

UNC will continue to use all sources of financial aid grants to mitigate student debt load while offering loans at the levels established by the federal government. In particular, whereas traditional support has been concentrated on entering freshman students, UNC is intentionally addressing aid over the full four years of a student's enrollment. We are analyzing enrollment and retention data cross-tabulated by EFC and student level (first-time freshman, continuing freshman, etc.) and will use the results to incrementally apply more

institutional financial aid towards sophomores, juniors, and seniors, reducing their reliance on loans. In addition, UNC staff is expanding the information provided to students about the long-term impacts of borrowing, balanced with information about the value of an investment in their education.

SECTION V: ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED & UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS

Describe how your institution will continue to address the needs of underserved and underrepresented students to maintain access, provide appropriate outreach, and ensure success. Specifically address the following populations:

1. *First generation students*
2. *Minority students*
3. *Students from low socioeconomic backgrounds*

UNC's student population includes a significant number of first-generation students (37% of 2009 freshman class), self-identified ethnic minorities (25% of 2009 freshman class), and students who meet federal low income levels (19% of 2008-09 undergraduates). National research and our experience at UNC suggest that the most effective way to meet the needs of underserved and underrepresented students is through a broad array of targeted services.

- UNC is home to three TRiO programs which help students from first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented families successfully enter higher education and graduate. TRiO participants benefit from services including career exploration, academic and personal counseling, college and financial aid information, college and graduate school admissions preparation, summer academic and enrichment programs, and workshops for students and parents on topics including study skills, time management, and college survival skills.
    - **UNC McNair Scholars Program** serves 30 UNC juniors and seniors annually.
        - Faculty mentors are a critical component of the McNair Scholars Program. Over 100 dedicated UNC faculty members have served as mentors to McNair Scholars since the program's inception in 1995, and many of those have served multiple times.
        - Since the year 2000, 76% of graduating UNC McNair Scholars have been accepted to or have completed a graduate degree. Our McNair Scholars have presented their research internationally and attend graduate school programs across the country.
        - Among our UNC McNair alumni are four PhDs, three lawyers and two medical doctors.
    - **UNC Student Support Services Program/Center for Human Enrichment** serves 200 UNC students annually.
        - Students in the UNC CHE program persist at 86%. In 2008-2009, 88% of students were in good academic standing, and CHE maintains a 60% graduation rate. Each of these statistics is significantly above the rates reported for UNC at large. In addition, during the past academic year, over 40% of CHE students maintained a GPA of over 3.0 with 11 CHE participants achieving a *cumulative* GPA of 4.0.
        - UNC's CHE program was recently noted as being in the top 1% of programs in the country.
    - **Northern Colorado Upward Bound** program serves 50 students annually from Greeley Central High School, an important outreach activity consistent with the statewide higher education strategic planning pipeline goal.

- Over the past two years, UNC has invested over half a million dollars in the First Generation Program which has attracted 150 students who are the first in their family to attend college. This $4,000 per year scholarship supports these students in reaching their educational goals.

- UNC is home to four cultural centers (Marcus Garvey, Cesar Chavez, Asian Pacific American Student Services, and Native American Student Services), International Student Services, Disability Support Services, and an office for Veterans.

- UNC is expanding off-campus and online offerings and strengthening community college partnerships to provide non-traditional students with additional opportunity to enter higher education. The UNC Fast Track Program is a transfer scholarship opportunity for students attending Aims Community College and who are planning to transfer to UNC. The Fast Track option permits a student to apply to a community college while simultaneously creating a connection or "nexus" with UNC. Students who participate in the Fast Track program become eligible for either the Greeley Guarantee Transfer Scholarship and/or The Aims Guarantee Scholarship.

- We also adopt some of the practices developed to serve underrepresented populations for use with the entire student population. For example, in fall 2009, UNC launched its University College, an academic home for "exploring" students (i.e., those who have not declared an academic major), students on academic probation, interdisciplinary majors, and highly motivated students in programs to challenge them in the areas of original research and civic leadership. The University College, which is unique among public higher education institutions in Colorado, now serves almost 3,000 students.

UNC will invest approximately 25% of its new tuition revenue in continuing to build services that support student success, as previously described in the explanation of UNC's approach to the FAP. Specific initiatives include:

- Further development of data about what is essential to help students reach their education goals

- Implementation of a customer relations management system to individualize communication to students from the recruitment period throughout their academic career, allowing us to address unique needs of underserved and underrepresented student populations;

- Use of "academic coach" positions to support low-income, first-generation, underrepresented populations who come to UNC through the Denver Scholarship Foundation and Daniels Fund;

- The fall 2011 launch of a new "UNIV 101" course tailored to the needs of the "fledgling learner" making the transition to university-level instruction, which will be of particular importance to first-generation students, who often lack a frame of reference for coping with the college experience;

- Continued development of the Office of Veteran Services UNC created in 2010 to facilitate the entry or re-entry of military veterans into higher education, providing support throughout the continuum of a veteran's student experience; and

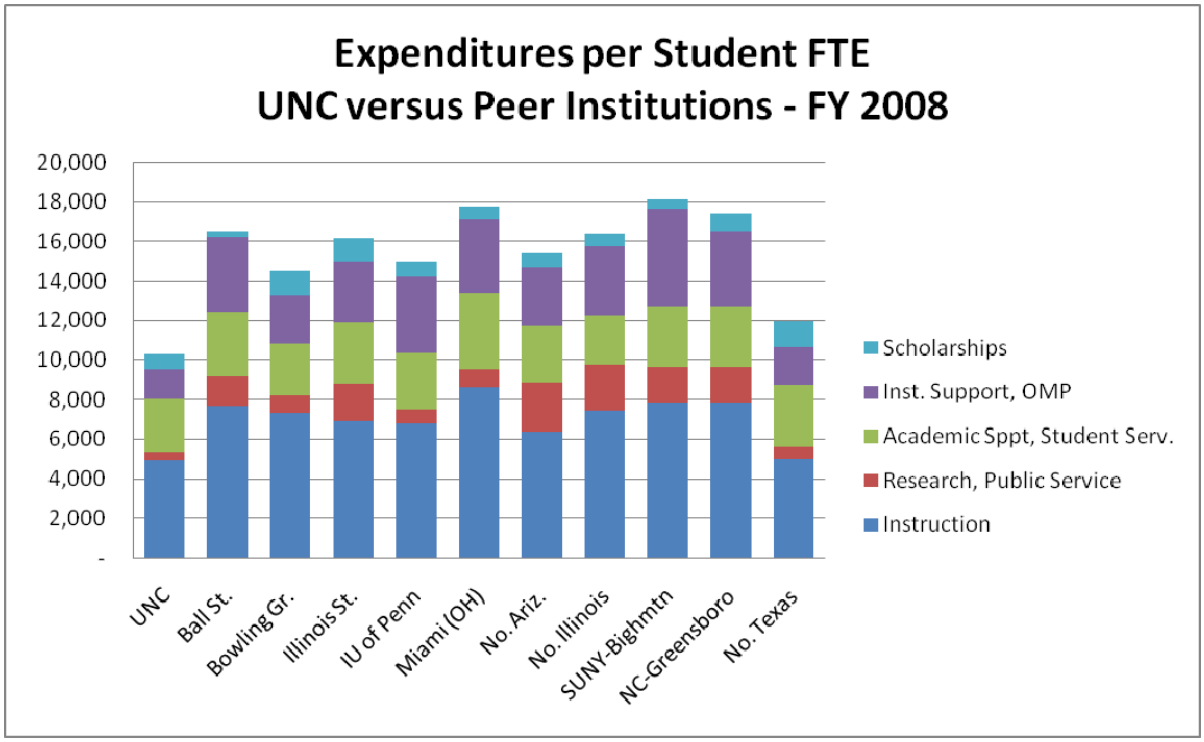
- Continued development of the Stryker Institute for Leadership Development, launched in 2001 to advance the leadership development of talented women students from underrepresented minority groups, especially women of non-traditional age, and high financial need.

SECTION VI: OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY

Describe how the institution/governing board will utilize institutional flexibility to maximize operations, maintain quality, increase efficiencies and create cost savings.

In spite of recent tuition increases at UNC, we have the next-to-lowest tuition rate among our NCHEMS peers, and UNC's expenditure per student is now the lowest in our peer group (Chart 2). There is no question that UNC and Colorado's other public universities are underfunded in relation to their national peers. However, in our financial planning work, we have not used the average expenditures and revenues of our peers as targets. Rather, our planning is based on factors that include UNC's obligation as a public institution to serve the state's changing population, costs associated with enrollment growth and quality, the fact that many of our students come from low- and middle-income families, our historical mission as an education thought leader, and a continuing emphasis on efficiency. We have also launched a campus-wide initiative to identify additional cost saving measures at UNC in the coming year.

Chart 2



Source: IPEDS (FY08 is most recent data available)

Specifically regarding the flexibility offered by statute, UNC has already opted out of both State Purchasing and State Collections. Our external collection agents have been more effective in collecting past-due accounts than previous efforts, which moderates the need to raise tuition. Opting out of state purchasing has given us flexibility to avoid some cost increases that would have been funded by tuition. We are investigating efficiencies and cost savings that might result from opting out of State Fiscal Rules and/or Centralized Contract Management. We estimate savings of about $25,000 in personnel time from opting out of centralized contract management, which will be redirected to assist university personnel in more effectively negotiating and managing vendor contracts.

SECTION VII: ALIGNMENT WITH STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLANNING

Describe how the implementation of the elements of this FAP provides either opportunities for or barriers to alignment with the ongoing statewide strategic planning process.

In the cover letter to the draft plan from the Higher Education Strategic Planning (HESP) committee, the co-chairs note: "…we believe Colorado's quality of life and prosperity – for us and for those who follow us – will depend on the choices we make about education. In particular, we believe our decisions on higher education – how we fund it and what we demand of it – will be key to our future, now more than ever." UNC concurs wholeheartedly with this statement. While the HESP is not yet final, it seems clear that Colorado's public investment in higher education is going to be directed to the support of undergraduate credit hours, at least for the period of time addressed by Senate Bill 3. This being the case, the approach outlined in UNC's plan is entirely consistent and aligned with both the intent of Senate Bill 3 and that of the HESP.

The increased investment recommended in the HESP draft is essential. As the data in the report show, public funding for Colorado students who are pursuing higher education is at the bottom nationally. UNC supports a two-pronged approach to funding: 1) directly to students and 2) in support of state and national priorities. This is also consistent with the intent—although not with the implementation—of the College Opportunity Fund legislation.

However, given the severe constraints of state funding, achieving recommendations 2 and 3 in the HESP draft is dependent upon the innovation, flexibility, and creativity inherent in a market-based approach to higher education. UNC's internal financial planning and projections assume such an approach. The market for Colorado's public colleges and universities is not a closed system limited to other Colorado public institutions. Colorado residents have access to literally thousands of private educational opportunities, including many for-profit ventures. Any attempt to regulate competition among public institutions without considering the other entities that are competing for the same students will significantly harm our ability to compete in this market. In order to respond to changes in the higher education market and to the specific needs of our students, we must have the flexibility to adjust our mix of programs and services as well as change our pricing and discounting.

The University of Northern Colorado is a mission-driven organization. We give students access to the transformative power of education, which is particularly significant for the students we serve whose options historically have been limited by socio-economic status and demographics such as ethnicity.

We believe that the most significant advances in efficiency and effectiveness in the quality of life and prosperity of people—a positive sum outcome—have occurred when the passion, thoughtfulness and expertise of individuals are allowed to flourish. Benjamin Franklin's creation of public lending libraries is one such example. Worlds of knowledge have been opened for countless people through this vision for public libraries, which were established not by governmental or regulatory mandate but by passionate individuals working together. The way to achieve the goals of the HESP is not more control and more regulation, which would require more administrative overhead, a negative-sum outcome. Nor is it simply shifting the cost of higher education from state funding to student tuition, a zero-sum outcome. Rather, the answer lies in the ability of each college or university to act with enlightened self-interest, which can be achieved only when the passionate and creative people at each institution are empowered to make the decisions requiring experience and expertise unique to that institution.

We care about our students and therefore are committed to a positive sum approach to addressing both our state's need for educated citizens and the realities of funding constraints. A 15% tuition increase next year means a $700 annual sticker price increase for resident undergraduate students, which will keep our tuition less than that at our peer institutions (Appendix IV). We will continue to invest in institutional discounting, so this increase won't completely offset losses in state funding; however, we understand that our fiscal sustainability depends upon both setting the right tuition price and providing the right amount and type of financial aid.

The elements of UNC's FAP – tuition, discounting, protection of low- and middle-income students, minimizing student debt load, addressing the needs of underserved and underrepresented populations – are dependent upon retaining maximum flexibility to achieve fiscal sustainability and fulfill our mission. With this flexibility, we remain committed to doing our part to help Colorado achieve a "degree dividend" by continuing to make tuition and discounting decisions based upon research into all of the factors necessary for a UNC student to be successful.

Appendix I: Five Year Projection of Revenue and Expenses

University of Northern Colorado
On Campus Education and General
Fiscal Year 2011 to 2016

	FY11	FY12	% Chg	FY13	% Chg	FY14	% Chg	FY15	% Chg	FY16	% Chg
Revenue											
UG Resident Tuition	43,012,000	50,717,000	17.9%	59,516,000	17.3%	68,000,000	14.3%	75,600,000	11.2%	84,029,000	11.1%
UG Non-resident Tuition	13,669,000	15,460,000	13.1%	16,475,000	6.6%	17,553,000	6.5%	18,613,000	6.0%	19,733,000	6.0%
GR Resident Tuition	7,716,000	9,314,000	20.7%	11,421,000	22.6%	14,007,000	22.6%	17,194,000	22.8%	21,121,000	22.8%
GR Non-resident Tuition	4,321,000	5,275,000	22.1%	6,434,000	22.0%	7,855,000	22.1%	9,592,000	22.1%	11,726,000	22.2%
Appropriated Fees	4,929,000	5,077,000	3.0%	5,229,000	3.0%	5,386,000	3.0%	5,548,000	3.0%	5,714,000	3.0%
Federal/ State Funding	40,623,000	30,176,000	-25.7%	30,176,000	0.0%	30,176,000	0.0%	30,176,000	0.0%	30,176,000	0.0%
Other Revenue	4,338,000	4,425,000	2.0%	4,515,000	2.0%	4,607,000	2.0%	4,702,000	2.1%	4,800,000	2.1%
Total Revenue	**118,608,000**	**120,444,000**	1.5%	**133,766,000**	11.1%	**147,584,000**	10.3%	**161,425,000**	9.4%	**177,299,000**	9.8%
Institutional Discounting											
GA/TA Waivers	(2,400,000)	(3,621,000)	50.9%	(5,193,000)	43.4%	(7,130,000)	37.3%	(9,518,000)	33.5%	(12,468,000)	31.0%
Scholarships	(12,964,000)	(15,393,000)	18.7%	(17,908,000)	16.3%	(20,366,000)	13.7%	(22,605,000)	11.0%	(25,073,000)	10.9%
Total Institutional Discounting	**(15,364,000)**	**(19,014,000)**	23.8%	**(23,101,000)**	21.5%	**(27,496,000)**	19.0%	**(32,123,000)**	16.8%	**(37,541,000)**	16.9%
Discounted Revenue	**103,244,000**	**101,430,000**	-1.8%	**110,665,000**	9.1%	**120,088,000**	8.5%	**129,302,000**	7.7%	**139,758,000**	8.1%
Expenditures											
Faculty Salaries	32,835,000	34,120,000	3.9%	36,528,000	7.1%	39,250,000	7.5%	41,788,000	6.5%	44,465,000	6.4%
GA/TA Stipends	3,126,000	3,636,000	16.3%	4,289,000	18.0%	5,090,000	18.7%	6,075,000	19.4%	7,287,000	20.0%
Exempt & Classified Salaries	31,491,000	32,435,000	3.0%	33,485,000	3.2%	34,571,000	3.2%	35,851,000	3.7%	37,173,000	3.7%
All Other Wages	3,840,000	3,955,000	3.0%	4,083,000	3.2%	4,215,000	3.2%	4,352,000	3.3%	4,494,000	3.3%
Fringe Benefits	15,700,000	19,479,000	24.1%	21,461,000	10.2%	23,571,000	9.8%	25,931,000	10.0%	28,459,000	9.7%
Cost of Sales	305,000	317,000	3.9%	331,000	4.4%	345,000	4.2%	360,000	4.3%	375,000	4.2%
OCE	8,132,000	8,511,000	4.7%	8,810,000	3.5%	9,121,000	3.5%	9,445,000	3.6%	9,781,000	3.6%
Utilities	3,787,000	3,901,000	3.0%	4,036,000	3.5%	4,176,000	3.5%	4,321,000	3.5%	4,472,000	3.5%
Travel	1,017,000	1,017,000	0.0%	1,024,000	0.7%	1,031,000	0.7%	1,038,000	0.7%	1,045,000	0.7%
Capital	2,536,000	2,536,000	0.0%	2,541,000	0.2%	2,546,000	0.2%	2,551,000	0.2%	2,556,000	0.2%
Total Expenditures	**102,769,000**	**109,907,000**	6.9%	**116,588,000**	6.1%	**123,916,000**	6.3%	**131,712,000**	6.3%	**140,107,000**	6.4%
Cost Reductions		**(1,500,000)**	**-**	**(3,000,000)**	**100.0%**	**(5,000,000)**	**66.7%**	**(5,000,000)**	**0.0%**	**(5,000,000)**	**0.0%**
Transfers											
Out to Capital	886,000	886,000	0.0%	888,000	0.2%	890,000	0.2%	892,000	0.2%	894,000	0.2%
Support from Other Activities	(661,000)	(716,000)	8.3%	(1,028,000)	43.6%	(1,181,000)	14.9%	(1,522,000)	28.9%	(1,926,000)	26.5%
Total Transfers	**225,000**	**170,000**	-24.4%	**(140,000)**	-182.4%	**(291,000)**	107.9%	**(630,000)**	116.5%	**(1,032,000)**	63.8%
Total Expenditures, Cost Reductions and Transfers	**102,994,000**	**108,577,000**	5.4%	**113,448,000**	4.5%	**118,625,000**	4.6%	**126,082,000**	6.3%	**134,075,000**	6.3%
Discounted Revenue Less Expenditures, Cost Reductions and Transfers	**250,000**	**(7,147,000)**		**(2,783,000)**		**1,463,000**		**3,220,000**		**5,683,000**	
Use of Reserves	**0**	**7,147,000**		**2,783,000**		**0**		**0**		**0**	
Contingency	**250,000**	**0**		**0**		**1,463,000**		**3,220,000**		**5,683,000**	

Projected Tuition Comparisons

Resident Undergraduate

Rate Increase Assumptions					Annual Tuition		UNC FY14 Annual Tuition Compared to Competition
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14			
UNC	9.0%	15.0%	15.0%	12.0%			
NCHEMS	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	FY10	FY14	
University of Northern Colorado					**4,296**	**6,932**	**-**
NCHEMS Peers							
Ball State University					7,228	9,125	2,193 higher than UNC would be
Bowling Green State University					7,778	9,820	2,888 higher than UNC would be
Illinois State University					6,624	8,363	1,431 higher than UNC would be
Indiana University of Pennsylvania					5,554	7,012	80 higher than UNC would be
Northern Arizona University					5,236	6,610	322 lower than UNC would be
Northern Illinois University					6,240	7,878	946 higher than UNC would be
University of North Carolina-Greensboro					2,590	3,270	3,662 lower than UNC would be
University of North Texas					5,060	6,388	544 lower than UNC would be
Miami University-Oxford					11,442	14,445	7,513 higher than UNC would be
SUNY at Binghamton					9,940	12,549	5,617 higher than UNC would be

University of Northern Colorado
Strategic Pricing Task Force Report
November 2004

Executive Summary

In July 2004, Vice President Schoneck charged a task force with conducting an analysis of strategic pricing options for the Board of Trustees of the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) to consider for implementation in fall 2005 (FY 06).

The impetus for this charge was the university's decreased funding. **In constant dollars per student, the fiscal year 2005 education and general budget is $10.7 million less than it was in fiscal year 2003.** Given the limitations on Colorado's budget, it is unlikely that general fund appropriations will recover. And, although alternative revenue generation strategies are being explored, tuition is the primary source of funding to maintain "Colorado's Best University Experience".

Strategic Pricing Goals

In this document strategic pricing is defined as the use of pricing – based on cost and market factors – to meet institutional strategic goals, not just revenue objectives. Goals for UNC's strategic pricing were established as follows:

- Consistent with the $10 million tuition decision item submitted to the state, the new pricing structure should ensure the continuation of an excellent university experience for students.
- Pricing should be consistent with the value of the services as perceived by students, parents and Colorado citizens.
- Pricing should be consistent with public policy for access and programmatic demand.
- Tuition rates should continue to be attractive for non-residents both for financial stability and student-body diversity.
- Tuition structure should be consistent with the breadth of programs necessary for a comprehensive university, i.e., differential tuition charges should not be solely dependent on cost and market factors.

Consistent with UNC's principle of minimizing fees for cost transparency, the task force only considered tuition pricing strategies and not any new fees.

Nine pricing strategies were identified and evaluated based on the following guiding principles:

- Tuition prices should be related to the cost of education as a matter of fairness and good business practice.
- Tuition should be related to demand for courses and programs.
- Cost of attendance should be predictable and clear (truth in advertising).
- Pricing should be considered in concert with financial aid policies, so that student choice of program is preserved as much as possible.
- Pricing should reflect UNC's primary obligation to serve Colorado citizens.

General Recommendations

Three general recommendations on the pricing strategies emerged. These recommendations formed the basis for six alternative pricing structures/tuition models presented later. The recommendations were:

Recommendation One:

As part of a revised tuition model to take effect in FY 2006, UNC should:

- ***Implement two new pricing strategies***
  - ***per credit hour pricing***
  - ***a lower/upper division differential***
- ***Increase the existing undergraduate/graduate differential***
- ***Reduce the resident/non-resident differential.***

This recommendation will result in a fundamental restructuring of pricing to more closely relate prices charged with operating and capital costs incurred.

Recommendation Two:

UNC should implement differential pricing for high-cost programs and/or high-demand programs when such differentials can be justified.

Clearly some programs are more expensive than others to deliver. These differences do not really manifest themselves until the upper division (due to the common general education requirements at the lower division). However, cost should not be the only factor in evaluating program differentials. Decisions should also be based on public policy and institutional objectives, as well as market factors. A thoughtful analysis of all of these issues, including potential implementation pitfalls, was not possible within the timeframe for the task force's work. Therefore, the task force recommends program differentials in general, but has not concluded that any specific differentials are currently justified. Nevertheless, two alternatives for business and nursing program differential are presented.

Recommendation Three:

No additional pricing strategies (e.g., masters/doctoral differential, course day & time pricing, and delivery method differential) should be employed at this time.

Specific Alternatives

The three recommendations became the basis for six alternative tuition models. The revenue impact of each alternative varies. It should be noted that the models assume no change in enrollment patterns. It is likely that per-credit pricing will change enrollment patterns and actual revenue generated would be less than that predicted by the model. Additional alternatives could be developed using the same basic model.

Alternative A – Basic Tuition Model: Revenue Neutral

The first alternative implements recommendation one (per credit pricing, lower/upper division differential, increasing the undergraduate/graduate differential, and decreasing resident/non-resident differential) with tuition rates that result in no overall change in UNC revenue.

Alternative B – Basic Tuition Model: $8.4 million

A variation on the basic tuition model is one that sets tuition rates at a level that would yield an estimated $8.4 million.

Alternative C – Basic Tuition Model: $7.1 million

Slightly more modest tuition rate increases in the basic tuition model would yield an estimated $7.1 million.

Alternative D – Basic Tuition Model: $4.9 million

A final variation on the basic tuition model would yield an estimated $4.9 million.

Alternative E – Alternative C plus Business and Nursing Differentials ($300/$600)

Using the basic model with tuition rates as in alternative C, plus adding annual tuition differentials for business and nursing of $300 and $600 respectively, would yield an estimated $7.5 million.

Alternative F – Alternative D plus Business and Nursing Differentials ($450/$750)

Using the basic model with tuition rates as in alternative D, plus adding annual tuition differentials for business and nursing of $450 and $750 respectively, would yield an estimated $5.4 million.

Alternative A is revenue-neutral and is presented as a reference point for the implementation of per credit hour pricing and lower/upper division differentials. **The pricing impact of the alternatives that generate new revenue can be summarized as follows:**

- Full-time (15 semester credit) lower division residents (freshman and sophomores) would pay $100-$325 (4% - 11%) more per year.

- Full-time upper division residents (juniors and seniors) would pay $770-$1,022 (27% - 36%) more per year.

- Part-time lower and upper division residents would generally pay less than the current tuition.

- If business and nursing differentials were implemented, upper division majors in those programs would pay, respectively, about $1,200 and $1,500 more per year than the current tuition.

Change in Annual Resident Tuition

	Lower	Upper	Bus	Nurs	Grad
B	325	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,740
C	250	938	938	938	1,490
D	100	770	770	770	1,134
E	250	938	1,238	1,538	1,490
F	100	770	1,220	1,520	1,134

- Graduate residents' tuition would increase by $1,134 - $1,740 (37%-57%) per year.

- Non-resident undergraduate tuition decreases for students enrolling in less than 15 semester credits.

- Non-resident graduate student tuition would increase $1,000 - $1,600 (9%-14%) per year.

Other Considerations

There are two additional recommendations related to the implementation of a new pricing structure.

The task force recommends that 20% of all new revenue generated by the new model should be dedicated to financial aid.

The task force also recommends that a significant communications and marketing effort regarding COF stipends and pricing structure changes be initiated as soon as possible.

Appendix III: UNC Admissions & Enrollment Data for Developing Targeted Financial Aid Strategies

Chart 1: Number of admits and yield rates by financial neediness and academic preparation for Fall 2008 entering first time resident freshmen

EFC-Need	*Index ≤ 99*	*Index 100-111*	*Index 112-128*	*Index 129-139*	*Index ≥ to 140*
Very High Need *$0.00*	57% (101)	51% (55)	51% (39)	50% (2)	NA
High Need *$1-1,500.00*	71% (76)	50% (42)	44% (45)	50% (4)	NA
Medium High *$1,501-6,926.00*	63% (184)	54% (125)	49% (133)	46% (26)	NA
Medium Need *$6,927-9,999.00*	71% (80)	57% (61)	44% (61)	58% (12)	0% (1)
Medium Low *$10,000-12,500.00*	80% (61)	52% (48)	45% (51)	50% (12)	100% (1)
Low Need *$12,501.00-18,000.00*	63% (95)	44% (79)	47% (102)	33% (21)	NA
Very Low Need *EFC > 18,000.00*	64% (314)	57% (296)	52% (292)	38% (65)	0% (4)
No EFC Info	36% (621)	20% (521)	20% (429)	17% (54)	0% (1)

Data Note: N=4114. Each cell provides the % yield (or % of admits who enrolled) and parentheses contain the total number of admitted students **within the cross tabulation** of need and index score ranges

Chart 2: Number of admits and yield rates by financial neediness and academic preparation for Fall 2009 entering first time resident UG freshmen

EFC-Need	*Index ≤ 99*	*Index 100-111*	*Index 112-128*	*Index 129-139*	*Index ≥ to 140*
Very High Need *$0.00*	73% (164)	64% (127)	60% (88)	55% (9)	NA
High Need *$1-1,500.00*	67% (76)	53% (65)	55% (63)	37% (8)	NA
Medium High *$1,501-6,926.00*	66% (209)	51% (178)	51% (163)	31% (29)	NA
Medium Need *$6,927-9,999.00*	64% (76)	59% (94)	44% (78)	61% (18)	NA
Medium Low *$10,000-12,500.00*	59% (54)	53% (54)	54% (53)	53% (15)	NA
Low Need *$12,501.00-18,000.00*	68% (111)	62% (108)	58% (117)	50% (24)	33% (3)
Very Low Need *EFC > 18,000.00*	67% (341)	54% (295)	49% (359)	46% (71)	0% (1)
No EFC Info	33% (534)	18% (461)	13% (401)	11% (72)	33% (3)

Data Note: N=4,522. Each cell provides the % yield (or % of admits who enrolled) and parentheses contain the total number of admitted students **within the cross tabulation** of need and index score ranges

Chart 3: Number of admits and yield rates by financial neediness and academic preparation for Fall 2010 entering first time resident UG freshmen

EFC-Need	*Index ≤ 99*	*Index 100-111*	*Index 112-128*	*Index 129-139*	*Index ≥ to 140*
Very High Need *$0.00*	64% (214)	45% (160)	49% (130)	46% (15)	NA
High Need *$1-1,500.00*	72% (93)	50% (86)	49% (72)	29% (7)	100% (1)
Medium High *$1,501-6,926.00*	59% (199)	58% (200)	48% (201)	45% (20)	NA
Medium Need *$6,927-9,999.00*	60% (81)	49% (70)	45% (82)	40% (15)	0% (1)
Medium Low *$10,000-12,500.00*	52% (54)	56% (45)	46% (71)	58% (12)	NA
Low Need *$12,501.00-18,000.00*	53% (91)	57% (104)	42% (113)	41% (22)	0% (2)
Very Low Need *EFC > 18,000.00*	63% (253)	57% (284)	44% (327)	37% (82)	0% (3)
No EFC Info	31% (555)	21% (498)	15% (445)	13% (83)	33% (3)

Data Note: N=4,694. Each cell provides the % yield (or % of admits who enrolled) and parentheses contain the total number of admitted students **within the cross tabulation** of need and index score ranges

Appendix IV: NCHEMS Tuition Information 2009-2010

2009 - 2010 Academic Year Tuition Information		
Institution	**Resident Undergraduate Tuition**	**Resident % Tuition UNC/Comparison**
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO	$2,590	166%
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO	$4,296	100%
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS	$5,060	85%
NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY	$5,236	82%
INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA-MAIN CAMPUS	$5,554	77%
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	$6,240	69%
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY	$6,624	65%
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY	$7,228	59%
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY-MAIN CAMPUS	$7,778	55%
SUNY AT BINGHAMTON	$9,940	43%
MIAMI UNIVERSITY-OXFORD	$11,442	38%
Average of 10 NCHEMS Schools	$6,940	62%

*all rates for undergraduate tuition based on 12 credit hours per semester

Appendix V: Financial Aid and Tuition Trends for Full-time Resident Undergraduates

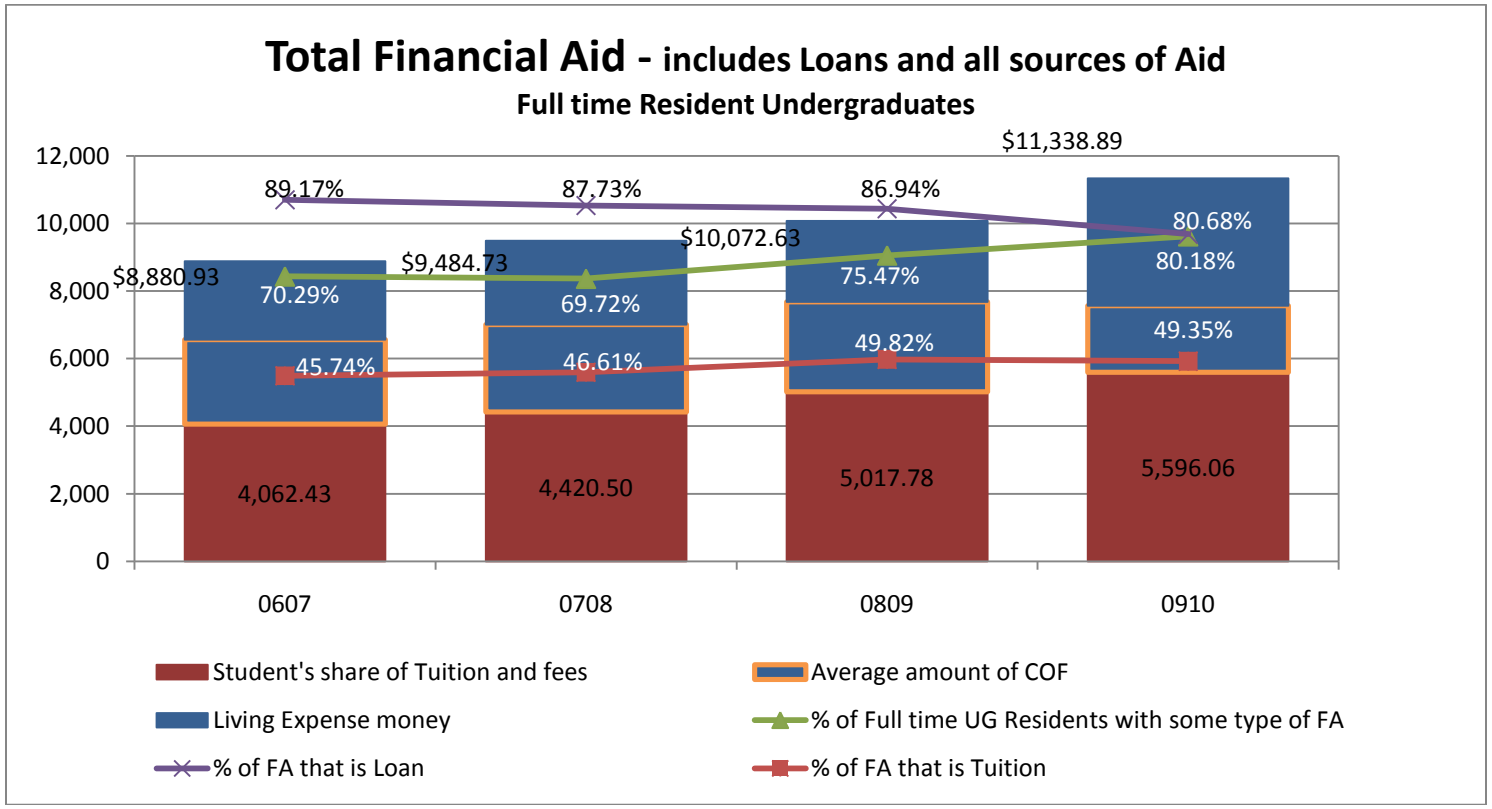
This report examines the relationship between tuition and fees and the amount of financial aid paid to students. This report focuses on Resident State Funded Undergraduate full-time students; however, information is also available for other undergraduate populations as well as graduate students.

Data Notes:

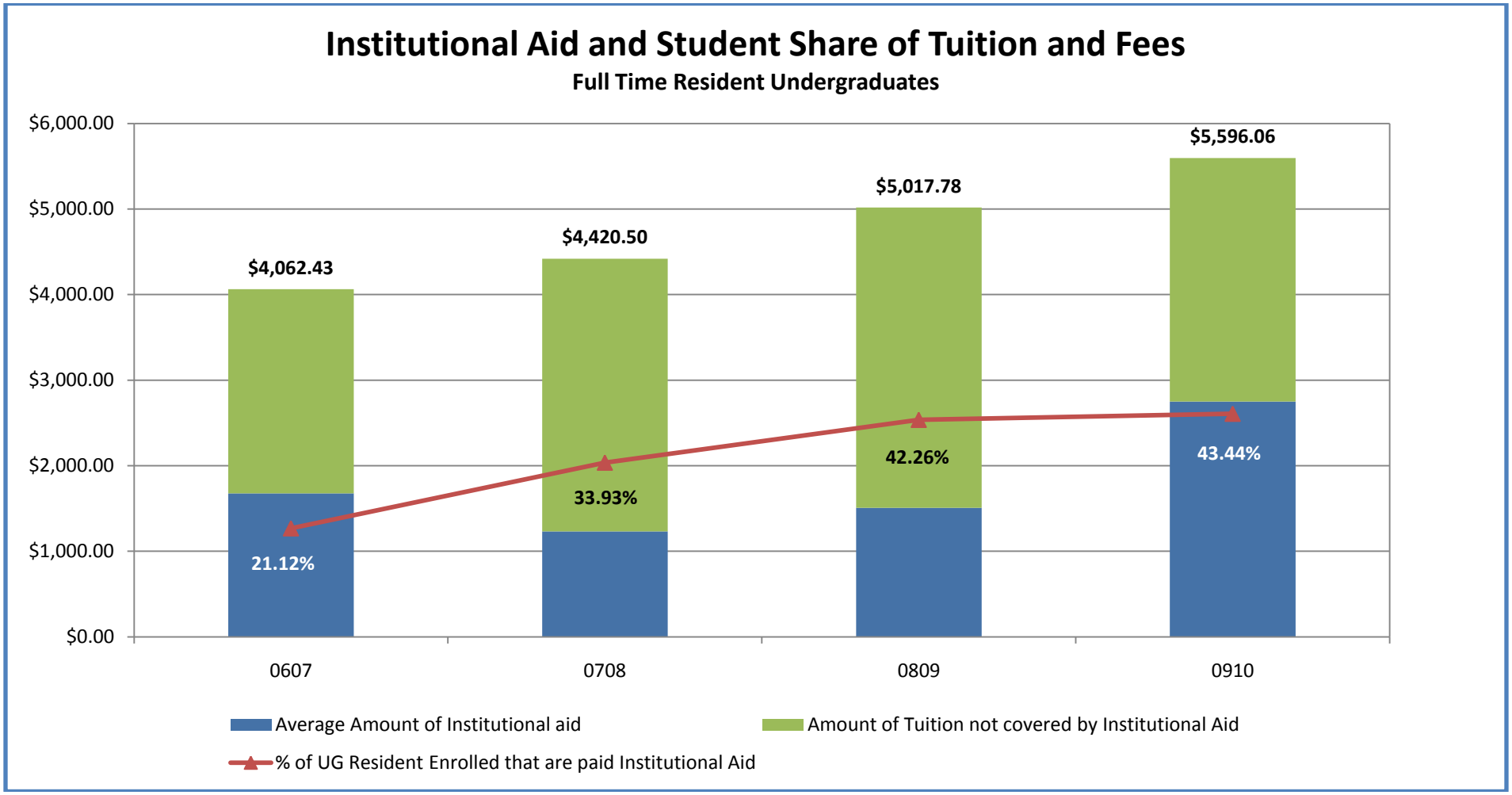
- Because tuition rates differ significantly between Non-resident and Resident and 90% of the undergraduate student population are resident students this report looks at the relationship of aid and tuition for resident undergraduates.
- Main campus credits (i.e. State Funded credits) were used to establish loads and tuition rates.
- Part-time students may or may not receive aid and they take a variable number of credit hours causing their tuition rates to fluctuate so only full-time students were examined.
- Students that withdrew completely from the university were eliminated from this study since these students may pay only part of their tuition thus reducing the amount of total tuition they pay and reducing the average tuition paid. (As a note – if a student withdrew from the university and received a reduction on the amount of tuition they paid their financial aid may also be reduced depending on type of aid and how much of the semester the student completed.)
- Since this report is examining student information over Fall and Spring and tuition amounts paid by students that only attend one semester will differ greatly than for those that attend all year, students had to attend both fall and spring to be included in this analysis.
- Also, some students move from full-time to part-time status or from non-resident to resident from one semester to another. If a student was part-time anytime during the year they are counted as part-time. If the student was non-resident anytime during the year they are classified as a non-resident.

The data set was generated by selecting tuition and fees charged to a student from the Accounts Receivable module and aid paid to a student was selected from the financial aid module. Enrollment information including residency and major were selected from the student module and all information was merged together for each student. Once the data was selected, four models were generated to look at different types of aid awarded and the relationship to total tuition. The four models separate financial aid paid into the following groups:

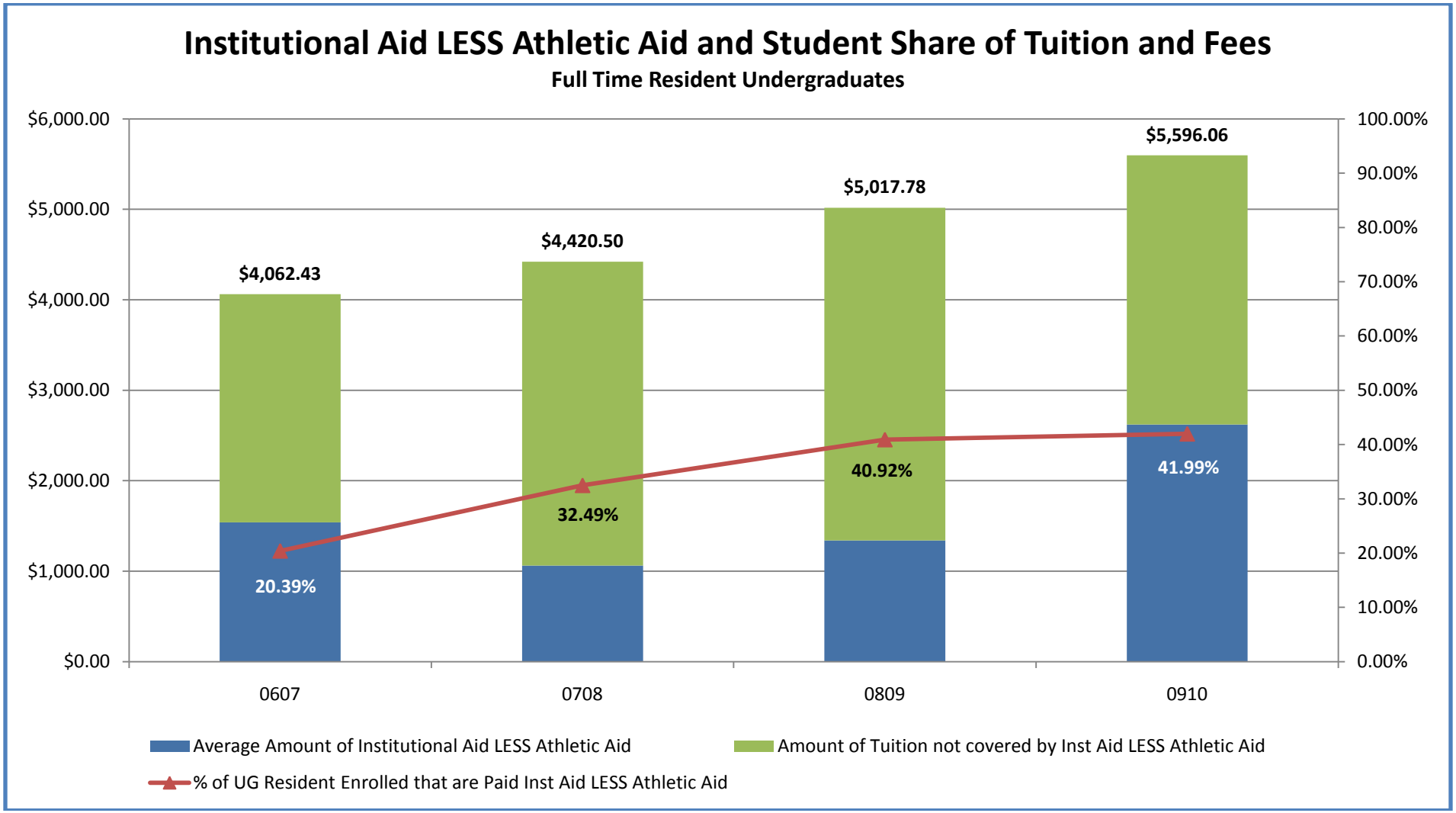
- All aid paid including loans and from all sources – federal, state, institutional and private
- Institutional aid – does **NOT** include foundation funds
- Institutional aid less athletic aid
- Institutional need based aid (i.e. leverageable aid)



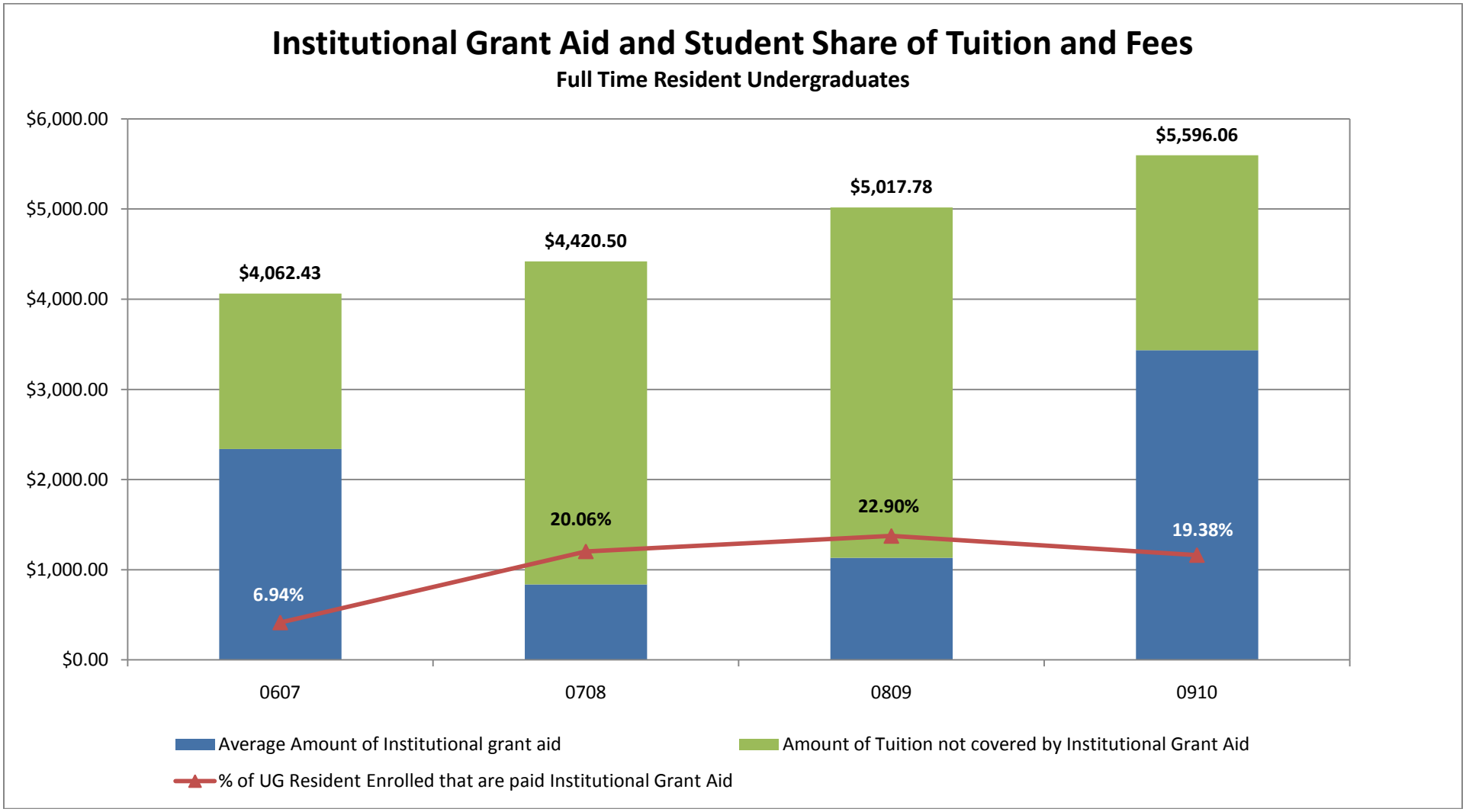
- Student's share of tuition and fees has increased consistently over the last 4 years.
  - The percent change in student's share of tuition and fees year to year: 8.8% for 0607 to 0708; 13.5% for 0708 to 0809; and 11.5% for 0809 to 0910
- COF increased until 2009-10 when COF per credit hour was decreased by $24 per credit hour.
- The amount of total financial aid awarded to students has increased each year, but the amount of financial aid awarded did not increase as much as tuition.



The amount at the top of the bar graph is the student's share of tuition and fees.



The number listed at the top of the bar graph is the student's share of tuition and fees.



The number listed at the top of the bar graph is the student's share of tuition and fees.