

**Charlotte, NC-** The legislature is busy with meeting bill filing deadlines and daily committee meetings. As an appointed member of the Joint Appropriations on Education/Higher Education some items that we are reviewing are: Governor Roy Cooper's Recommended Budget for Education, Expansion for K-12 education, and the University of North Carolina System budget priorities. Senator Joyce Waddell questioned the progress of senior citizens and being able to audit classes at community colleges and state institutions.

The Senate voted Thursday, March 22, to reappoint five current board members to the UNC Board of Governors.

The six elected board members are:

- Darrell Allison, charter school advocacy group leader
- former Republican state Senator Thom Goolsby
- Anna Spangler Nelson, Charlotte investment firm leader
- Temple Sloan, Raleigh business executive
- Michael Williford, Fayetteville attorney
- Martin Holton, a longtime executive at Reynolds American.

Between both the House and Senate, 10 incumbent Board of Governors members will return for another four-year term. The board will consist of 24 members which has been reduced from 28 due to previous legislation. Senate Minority Leader stated, "The Board of Governors has shown a lack of leadership and understanding of the students and faculty they are appointed to lead. Our universities have grown in size and diversity – and Republicans respond by reducing the size and weakening the diversity of the board."

The BOG's recent actions call into question whether they have the universities' best interests in mind in response to the continued loss of diversity on the board. The contention caused by the Board of Governors' leadership will impact our ability to recruit and retain new leaders in the UNC system.

"I support a process that allows North Carolina to provide quality education experience for universities across the UNC system which requires diverse representation to serve on the Board of Governors," said Senator Joyce Waddell

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