



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

SENATE BILL 593: Improve Professor Teaching Opportunities/UNC

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Re-ref to Education/Higher Education. If fav, re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget	Date:	April 28, 2015
Introduced by:	Sen. McInnis	Prepared by:	Denise Adams Legislative Analyst
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S593-CSTB-17		

SUMMARY: *Senate Bill 593 would amend the powers and duties of the Board of Governors (BOG) of The University of North Carolina (UNC) to direct the BOG to adopt a policy that would require all professors teaching in the UNC system to teach a minimum of eight class courses per academic year, and would require an annual independent audit of each institution to determine compliance. Salaries of professors who do not meet this required threshold would be reduced on a pro rata basis, although salaries could be supplemented by the school's endowment fund.*

The PCS to Senate Bill 593 would specify that the BOG's policy would have to set faculty teaching standards as determined by Carnegie Classification institution types and course disciplines as defined by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

CURRENT LAW and BACKGROUND: Chapter 116 of the General Statutes does not address minimum faculty teaching standards as determined by institution types and course disciplines. Current UNC Policy 400.3.4 addresses annual teaching loads, as follows:

"All campuses and constituent institutions will develop and implement policies and procedures to monitor faculty teaching loads and to approve significant or sustained variations from expected minimums. Policies must include the criteria and approval process for reductions in institutional load attendant to increased administrative responsibilities, externally-funded research, including course buy-outs, and additional institutional and departmental service obligations. Given the complexity of faculty work activities, individual faculty teaching loads are best managed at the department and school level, and not the system or state level. However, to ensure meaningful comparisons of faculty teaching load over time and across peers, all campuses shall adopt a standard methodology for collecting data on teaching load. This standard is described below...

Standard annual teaching loads will be differentiated to accommodate the diverse missions of the individual campuses. These differences will be captured by Carnegie Classification. Standard faculty teaching load measured by number of organized class courses a faculty member is assigned in a given academic year is the following:

- Research Universities I: 4
- Doctoral Universities I: 5
- Masters (Comprehensive) I: 6
- Baccalaureate (Liberal Arts) I: 8
- Baccalaureate (Liberal Arts) II: 8"

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BILL ANALYSIS: **Section 1** would require the BOG to adopt a policy applicable to all constituent institutions, except the North Carolina School of Science and Math and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, that sets faculty teaching standards differentiated by the type of institution according to Carnegie Classification institution types, and by subject discipline, according to course discipline types defined by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Section 1 also defines the different categories of institution types and course disciplines, specifies which constituent institutions are classified in each category of institution type, and provides that no department may average less than ten students per course.

Section 1 would require that the salary of any full time professor who teaches less than the required number of courses be reduced on a pro rata basis, unless:

- The institution chooses to supplement the professor's salary with endowment fund proceeds.
- The professor has private or federal grant funds transferred to the department in exchange for a pro rata reduction of teaching obligations.
- The professor is serving concurrently in an administrative position.

Section 1 would also require that the policy must include an annual independent audit of each constituent institution to determine compliance.

Section 2 makes a conforming change to the statute governing endowments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective when it becomes law and applies to academic years beginning on or after July 1, 2015.