

The University of North Carolina System  
**Learning Technology Commons**  
Case Study

# 8 Challenges of Higher Ed Edtech

1. Limited purchasing power and inconsistent pricing across institutions
2. Unharnessed faculty expertise and voice in edtech purchasing
3. Duplicated faculty and staff research time
4. Inconsistent data on which tools work for which students and faculty
5. Difficult to find and differentiate products that meet varying selection criteria and legal standards
6. Unclear and changing procurement processes
7. Lack of data privacy, confidentiality and contractual status for products
8. Extended purchasing timeline limiting access for learners

“Our instructors need the academic freedom and support to innovate, while our institutions remain excellent stewards of public dollars. When it comes to edtech, those things don't have to be in conflict.”



Matthew Rascoff  
VP Office of Learning  
Technology & Innovation

## UNC SYSTEM BY THE NUMBERS



**17 HIGHER  
ED INSTITUTIONS**

**20,000 FACULTY**

**225,000 STUDENTS**

## CHALLENGES

The UNC System found that practical challenges made it almost impossible to find, buy, share and monitor which learning technology innovations and interventions were best for faculty and their students across different campuses. Faculty at one UNC campus found success with a technology, while those at another campus might be unable to get the product through legal and procurement process. After investigation, different pricing, access levels and discounts were offered across the system; often the smallest, least resourced organizations were receiving higher prices than larger institutions. Additionally, the time spent researching solutions and attempting to differentiate between thousands of products created massive duplication without the benefit of shared inputs, voice, and expertise from users.

# SOLUTION

To establish more student-centric decision making on education technology the UNC System launched the **UNC Learning Technology Commons**, an education technology ecosystem, powered by the Lea(R)n platform.



UNC's Learning Technology Commons improves the process of discovering, procuring, and implementing edtech products across all 17 campuses. Through unified contracts with edtech providers, including a standard terms and conditions:

- Procurement is more efficient across all campuses.
- Pricing is standard and consistent, with an average discount of 21%.
- Faculty have clear, easy access to legally approved tools.
- Institutions harness faculty insights and data on which products work best to improve achievement, retention and completion.

The goal of the UNC Learning Technology Commons is to empower educators with the best instructional tools available — in the classroom or online — at the right time.

## UNC Learning Technology Commons Success in Less Than 90 Days



50+  
EDTECH COMPANY  
APPLICATIONS



274  
EDTECH  
PRODUCTS



93%  
APPROVAL  
RATE



21%  
AVERAGE  
DISCOUNT

“Our model provides a trust-worthy approach, not simply a marketplace to buy more stuff. With our quality-driven edtech ecosystem, the best products rise to the top. We can increase our purchasing power and our faculty share the tools that work best for their learners.”

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For UNC Faculty, get free access at:  
<http://unc.learntrials.com/>

For more information, details, or to set up  
your on-demand ecosystem in under 90 days:  
[www.LearnPlatform.com](http://www.LearnPlatform.com)

