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UNDER THE DOME



## Speaker Moore says 'all smiles' on Rep. Dollar after abrupt caucus meeting

By Lynn Bonner and Craig Jarvis

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House Republicans held an abrupt caucus meeting late Tuesday afternoon at state Republican Party headquarters in Raleigh, away from their usual meeting room at the state legislature.

The focus appeared to be about state Rep. Nelson Dollar, a Cary Republican.

Last week, a conservative political website, the Daily Haymaker, wrote about apparent questions over how Dollar handled UNC Board of Governors nominations in a previous House caucus meeting. The report could not be independently confirmed, but the website reported that Republican House members were angry that Dollar had taken action to keep a candidate off the list of nominees.

Caucus meetings are not open to the public.

Tuesday's sudden caucus meeting followed a session Monday night in which the House put off voting on major bills.

Asked after Tuesday's caucus session about any discontent among colleagues over the Board of Governors issue, Dollar said, "We're good."

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Dollar is senior chairman of the House Budget Committee – a position that makes him one of the state's most influential budget writers. House members have grumbled before about Dollar, including last year when he used a projection for lottery revenue in the House budget proposal that he knew was incorrect.

House Speaker Tim Moore emerged from the caucus meeting Tuesday and said Dollar would remain as senior budget committee chairman. He said that Dollar "of course" would retain that status for the rest of the legislative session.

Moore didn't elaborate on the caucus meeting.

"All smiles," Moore said.

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