



**Academic Affairs Committee
November 30, 2021
Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Priddy (Chair); Margaret S. Benjamin; Mona Edwards; Betsy S. Oakley; Tim Rice; Hazael Mengesha

OTHERS PRESENT: Chancellor Franklin Gilliam; Provost Debbie Storrs; Terri Shelton, Vice Chancellor for Research and Community Engagement; Dr. Omar Ali, Dean and Professor, Lloyd International Honors College; Dr. Andrew Hamilton, Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Board; and other members of the administration, faculty, staff, student body, and general public.

PROCEEDINGS:

Chair Priddy called the meeting to order at 1:45pm

The roll call was read, and a quorum was confirmed.

One roll call vote, the minutes of the September 28, 2021 committee meeting were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

AAC – 1 Faculty/Student Mentorship Presentation

Provost Storrs gave the Committee members a copy of a journal written by freshman students in the Grogan Residential College who are taking a course from Dr. Sarah Colona on Science Fiction and Social Justice. Provost Storrs noted the journal is an example reflecting the quality of teaching at UNCG.

Dr. Omar Ali introduced Quella Reid, an honors student in Lloyd International Honors College. Ms. Reid is both a UNCG Guarantee Scholar and a McNair Scholar. Under Dr. Ali's guidance, she conducted research while studying abroad in Wales, focused on how Black Welsh people have shaped Welsh society.

Ms. Reid thanked Dr. Ali for serving as her mentor and expressed appreciation for being both a Guarantee and McNair scholar, which have given her the opportunity to be a student and student

leader without a financial burden. Ms. Reid discussed her travel to Wales and her research on the impact of British imperialism on the lives of people of African descent in Wales. Her research centered on how early legislation negatively affected their lives and highlighted the significant accomplishments of three individuals whose contributions shaped society in ways that impacted the economy, international affairs, arts & culture, and education.

AAC – 2 Intensifying Enrollment to Improve Outcomes (Hamilton)

Dr. Andrew Hamilton gave a presentation on the 30 Hour Challenge, a pilot program aimed at increasing the number of students who complete 30 hours each academic year. Data shows that students who complete 30 hours in an academic year increase their persistence at the institution, have better grades, and improve the probability of graduation. It is also the only path to graduation in four years. UNCG's pilot program is opt-in, so students who need more enrollment flexibility because of work or home obligations are not penalized. To date, about 2,000 students have accepted the challenge. Students who enroll in the program receive priority advising, a \$250 award upon completion of the 30 hours, and up to \$1,500 in support for summer course enrollment. This initiative is funded with HEERF dollars. At the end of the summer, we will assess to see if program participation resulted in the anticipated academic-performance benefits and semester credit hour completion. If so, we will explore expanding and institutionalizing the program in Fall 2022.

To Hamilton's knowledge, UNCG is the only school with such a program in the UNC System. The HEERF funding for the program is likely to be extended until May 2023. Chancellor Gilliam noted that the HEERF funding has allowed us to experiment with money in ways we have not been able to do in the past. We will know our ROI for future fundraising going forward, which is an unanticipated benefit of the HEERF funds. Trustee Mona Edwards asked what the student reaction has been to the 30-hour challenge. Hazael Mengesha commented that he has taken 30 hours each year since coming to UNCG and would have benefited if the program had been in place earlier. Some faculty have expressed concern that we are asking too much of the students, but we are now having a data driven conversation that shows they are more successful when they take 30 hours per year. Students who enter the program but do not complete it are not penalized; they will continue to receive support for summer but will not get the \$250 award for completion.

Chair Priddy moved to convene in closed session pursuant to the North Carolina Open Meetings Law, Section § 143-318.11(2), in order to prevent the premature disclosure of an honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award. Trustee Tim Rice made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Mona Edwards. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Members of the public were invited to remain in the open session.

General Account of Closed Session Discussion

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Priddy (Chair); Margaret S. Benjamin; Mona Edwards; Betsy S. Oakley; Tim Rice; Hazael Mengesha

OTHERS PRESENT: Chancellor Franklin Gilliam; Provost Debbie Storrs; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Board.

AAC – 3 Candidates for Honorary Degrees

Provost Storrs reviewed with the Committee two nominations for honorary degrees as recommended by the Honorary Degree Committee.

Following return to open session, Chair Priddy invited a motion to approve conferral of honorary degrees upon Nominee One and Nominee two. Trustee Mona Edwards made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Tim Rice. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Priddy noted that as recommended by the Committee, AAC-3 would be presented in closed session for approval by the full board during the December 2, 2021 meeting.

INFORMATION ITEM:

AAC – 4 Update on Research and Engagement (Shelton)

Vice Chancellor Terri Shelton updated the Committee on the status of research and engagement. The first quarter of fiscal year 2022 has gotten off to a strong start. Awards and submissions are both up over this time last year – submissions by over \$1.6M and awards by over \$1.7M. Provost Storrs shared that Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Malcolm Schug just submitted a large NSF research grant, noting that VC Shelton’s team is wonderful to work with. Shelton stated that her team is committed to producing great work and looks for grants that match UNCG faculty priorities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Harris
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees