

**DRAFT**



**Academic Affairs Committee  
September 27, 2022  
Minutes**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dean Priddy (Chair); Mona Edwards; Hazael Mengesha; Betsy S. Oakley; Elizabeth Phillips (attended remotely); Linda Sloan

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chancellor Franklin Gilliam; 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

Roll call was read and a quorum was confirmed.

Chair Priddy read the Conflict of Interest Statement from the State Government Ethics Act and reminded committee members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest or the appearances of conflict of interest, if any should be identified. None were identified.

The minutes of the March 22, 2022 committee meeting were approved with no additions or corrections.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**AAC – I      Academic Affairs Update**

Provost Debbie Storrs gave an update highlighting successes, challenges, initiatives, and personnel updates within Academic Affairs.

UNCG has quality faculty whose excellence in scholarship, service, and teaching are recognized by external disciplines and associations, exemplified by a number of faculty who have achieved awards in their professions for their scholarship. These include the following:

- Dr. Jeremy Rinker, 2022-23 Fulbright Award winner
- Dr. Edna Tan, 2022 American Educational Research Association Division K Book Award
- Dr. Cerise Glenn received the 2021 Outstanding Book Award from the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender.

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Provost Storrs also briefed the Committee on national enrollment trends as well as UNC system institutions, including UNCG, which have seen similar declines. Discussion about enrollment trends and student success ensued, including discussion of academic affairs initiatives such as our collaboration with the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE), which will provide UNCG faculty an opportunity to engage in a learning community to improve teaching and retention.

The Committee was also briefed on the status of active searches, including Dean of Libraries (open to candidates in the UNC system), Dean of the Graduate School (open to all UNCG faculty), and Assistant Director of Diversity & Engagement (a reinvestment from the Chancellor to ensure our equity goals for student success are maintained). Two Provost Fellows were also announced. They are Connie Jones, who is focusing on Faculty & Staff Well-being, and Tracy Nichols, whose focus is on Faculty Development.

### *AAC – 2      School of Education Update*

Dean Penfield presented a summary of the School of Education (SOE) academic programs, achievements, and current challenges. He covered the wide range of programs of the SOE, which are designed to meet the varied needs of our education systems and other community organizations.

A primary challenge facing the SOE is the recent decline in enrollment in teacher preparation programs, which is aligned with national trends in this area. Strategies for removing obstacles to entering the teaching profession were discussed, one of which pertains to an SOE Campaign priority of expanding scholarship opportunities for students seeking to enter the teaching profession.

### *AAC – 3      Student Success Update (McCoy)*

Associate Vice Provost Regina McCoy discussed our integrated approach to student success which involves campus-wide partnerships and centralized academic services. McCoy provided information on “Thrive at the G: Holistic Health & Wellness,” which is the topic of our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a critical element of our reaffirmation by SACSCOC. Under development by a team of faculty, the QEP will ensure students understand holistic wellness and provide a hub for finding information, resources, and activities related to each of the eight wellness dimensions – intellectual, physical, social, environmental, emotional, vocational, financial, and cultural.

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Also discussed was an opportunity for faculty to enhance their teaching through a partnership with the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) that prepares faculty in evidence-based teaching practices to improve student achievement and close equity gaps.

McCoy closed by sharing the positive news of our “Startin Like a Spartan First Day Complete Initiative” which reduces the costs of course material in a convenience package before the first day of class at a reduced cost to students. A total of 11,655 students enrolled in Fall 2022 with a potential savings of \$2,020,8133.

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### *AAC – 4 Request to Establish an Early College Research Center (Shelton)*

Vice Chancellor Terri Shelton and alum Julie Edmunds, Program Director at the SERVE Center, presented a request to establish an Early College Research Center. UNCG researchers have created a national reputation for evaluating the early college model. Early Colleges offer students the opportunity to earn an associate's degree or up to two years of college credits toward a bachelor's degree in high school—at no or low cost to students.

The new Center will conduct research on topics related to early colleges, building on this extensive body of work that includes:

- a 17-year longitudinal experimental study of the impact of North Carolina’s early college model;
- evaluations of early college implementation not only in NC but also in Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Texas; and
- an ongoing five-year project examining the impact of North Carolina’s dual enrollment program, a component of which is early colleges.

Through establishment of this Center, UNCG will be first to market, housing the only Center focused on this topic in the country. This will increase the visibility of the excellence of the research that is already occurring at UNCG, enhancing the university’s reputation as an authority in the area, and increasing opportunities for partnerships and increased funding.

Following discussion, Trustee Mona Edwards moved to approve the establishment of the Early College Research Center as presented. Trustee Hazael seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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**INFORMATION ITEM**

AAC – 5        *Update on Research and Engagement (Shelton)*

Vice Chancellor Terri Shelton shared data on external funding and trends. Award amounts increased and exceeded our 5% target with award dollars increasing by \$3,583,248. This is the highest amount of award dollars in UNCG's history, representing a 42.1% increase over the last five years.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees