



# UNC GREENSBORO

## Board of Trustees

### Academic Affairs Committee

August 27, 2024

**DRAFT** Minutes

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dean Priddy (Chair); David Brown, Mae Douglas, George Hoyle, Tim Rice, Linda Sloan, Amber Fairchild

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chancellor Franklin Gilliam; Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Alan Boyette; Vice Chancellor Bob Shea; Vice Chancellor Sherine Obare; Andrew Hamilton, Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies; Regina McCoy, Associate Vice Provost for Retention and Student Success; Dr. Joy Bhadury, Interim Dean, Bryan School of Business and Economics; Bryan School faculty members Dr. Moez Farokhnia and Dr. Lakshmi Iyer; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Board; and other members of the administration, faculty, staff, student body, and public.

### **PROCEEDINGS:**

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

Chair Priddy read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement reminding board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest or the appearances of conflicts of interest.

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

Minutes of the February 20, 2024, committee meeting were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

*AAC-1 Academic Affairs Update (Boyette)*

Interim Provost Boyette briefed the committee on various initiatives in academic affairs, including four searches underway for a new provost and deans of the Bryan School of Business and Economics, College of Arts and Sciences and the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering. The provost search will be completed first.

Interim Provost Boyette also highlighted the \$2.4M in funding the School of Nursing received from the UNC System Office as part of the legislature's effort to increase nursing degree completions by at least 50%. This funding will allow the School of Nursing to introduce a new pre-licensure Master of Science in Nursing Program, which will launch in the Spring of 2025.

The Committee was also updated on the Board of Governors action to approve the university's Academic Portfolio Review Recommendations. Implementation of the new faculty workload policy is underway; it is aimed at recognizing the full scope of the work faculty do outside of teaching. Drafts from each unit are due to the Provost's Office on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

*AAC-2 Student Success Update (Hamilton, McCoy)*

Associate Vice Provosts Andrew Hamilton and Regina McCoy provided an update on ongoing efforts to improve academic outcomes for students. Associate Vice Provost Hamilton shared that the 2021-22 year brought pandemic-induced difficulties for our undergraduates, especially those in their first year. More students dropped or failed courses than in previous years, which drove poor retention. The campus responded with a suite of projects, initiatives, and programs to support student learning and well-being and, as a result, have seen two consecutive years of significant improvements in grade performance, with DFW rates now lower than before the pandemic began. The 2023 cohort is returning for their sophomore year at near record levels. We anticipate continued improvement in student success metrics due to the hard work of our faculty and staff.

Associate Vice Provost Regina McCoy shared some remarkable achievements from our Spartans Thrive Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), particularly the Spartans' First Mentoring Program. Mentoring is a cornerstone of the university's commitment to student success. It provides our new Spartans with invaluable support, guidance, and a sense of belonging from peers who have navigated the same path. Regina reported that this year, over 40% of first-year transfer students and first-time in college students have been successfully paired with returning UNCG Spartan mentors. This connection helps ease the transition into university life, fosters academic and personal growth, and strengthens our vibrant UNCG community.

*AAC 3- Spartan CyberGuardian Academy*

The Committee also heard an exciting presentation on the \$1M grant Google has awarded to the Bryan School's Department of Information Systems & Supply Chain Management. The funds will be used to open and operate the Spartan Cyber Guardian Academy. UNCG is the first institution in North Carolina to receive this award. With it, we join the Consortium of Cybersecurity Clinics in the U.S., with prior members including UC-Berkeley, Indiana University and MIT.

The Academy will provide cybersecurity training and education for UNCG students, some of whom will also receive financial assistance to obtain Google Cybersecurity Certification. Local high school and community college students will also be able to participate. Through the Academy, local nonprofits will be provided with Cybersecurity training, assessments, and customized mitigation recommendations. Local partners include the Guilford Non-Profit Consortium, Guilford County Schools, and Forge Greensboro.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

*AAC – 4      Written Update on Research and Engagement (Obare)*

Vice Chancellor Sherine Obare also briefly discussed the research and creative highlights happening in her unit. She shared that the Office of Research and Engagement closed the year with \$65 million in funding, with expenditures around \$50 million. Obare also shared that there has been a shift in the Carnegie classifications. With these new classifications, there is optimism around the institution's potential classification as an R1.

*AAC – 5      Candidates Awarded Degrees and Certificates in May 2024 (Boyette)*

The roster of candidates awarded degrees and certificates in May 2024 was provided to the Committee as an informational report.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees