



Meeting of the Full Board

October 31, 2024

8:30 am

Oakley Family Reception Room, UNCG Alumni House

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: George Hoyle, Chair; Mae Douglas, Vice Chair; Linda Sloan, Secretary; Anita Bachmann, Margaret Benjamin, David Brown, Oita Coleman, Dale Phipps, Dean Priddy, Tim Rice; Tim Sessoms, Amber Fairchild

Others Present: Chancellor Frank Gilliam; Alan Boyette, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor; Cathy Akens, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Beth Fischer, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement; Myla Edmond, Interim Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications; Andrea Hunter, Chancellor's Fellow for Campus Climate; Jeanne Madorin, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Human Resources Officer; Tina McEntire, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management; Sherine Obare, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement; Kisten Bonatz, Deputy General Counsel; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff, Kelly Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees; and other members of the faculty, staff, and general public.

Welcome, Conflict of Interest Statement, and Roll Call

Chair George Hoyle called the meeting to order at 8:37 am. He read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement; none were identified. Roll call was read, and a quorum was confirmed.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Hoyle extended concern to all students, faculty, and staff impacted by Hurricane Helene and reported that UNCG has about 650 currently enrolled students from the western part of the state; 275 of those live on campus. The Student Affairs team personally checked in with many of these students, especially those in the residence halls. Most of the students reported their families were safe and not directly or severely impacted by the hurricane. Some students did seek financial assistance through the emergency SAFE Fund and our Counseling Center also supported students who were emotionally distressed by the event.

The University has also coordinated with the System Office to provide support to sister institutions in the western region, including making our mental health professionals available and opening our doors to UNC Asheville student athletes. The university has been approached about potentially taking in more students.

Chair Hoyle referenced the October 24, 2024 Bikes for Kids Foundation event hosted in Fleming Gym, during which some 1,800 third grade students from Guilford County Title 1 schools learned they would receive new bikes and helmets for their participation in a Foundation-led course of study called *Be Kind – Work Hard – No Excuses*. Hoyle extended thanks to Athletics Director Brian Mackin and his team, as well as UNCG Communications, Admissions and Spartan Guides, School of Education, Campus Parking Operations, Advancement, and the Chancellor’s Office for bringing the event to fruition.

Chancellor’s Remarks

Chancellor Gilliam began his remarks with mention of a new city bus wrapped with UNCG logos that begins routes on Friday November 1. He thanked UNCG Communications and Transportation teams for working with the City on the project. On the topic of Hurricane Helene, Gilliam reported that the general assembly recently passed a relief package including provisions such as emergency grants for affected students at our western sister institutions.

The Cole Levin Center for Art and Human Understanding, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in February 2024, has been publicly announced. Chancellor Gilliam thanked Trustee Linda Sloan and Tom Sloan for hosting a media unveiling event for the Center in New York. Trustee Margaret Benjamin attended the event, which resulted in broad media coverage.

Collegiate rankings season is underway, and UNCG has again been ranked first in North Carolina for social mobility and 15th in the country by *US News and World Report*. The *Wall Street Journal* has likewise recognized the university in two categories: Social Mobility (#1 in North Carolina and #60 nationally) and Student Experience (#2 in North Carolina and #71 nationally). Other recognition includes:

- Free Speech: #1 in NC; #22 nationally (*Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression*)
- *Princeton Review’s* 2025 Mental Health Services Honor Roll - one of sixteen universities in the nation to receive this honor for demonstrating a strong commitment to comprehensive student mental health and wellbeing.
- Sixth in the nation in online colleges (*US News and World Report*)
- Most affordable by net cost in North Carolina (*New York Times*)

The Chancellor also reported on several leadership updates, first congratulating Alan Boyette on his appointment as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor. A search for a new Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications will launch in November and will be chaired by Vice Chancellor Donna Heath. The university is also seeking a new Director of External Affairs and hopes to have someone in place by January before the General Assembly’s long session begins in February.

Chief Human Resources Officer Jeanne Madorin will retire in December after 32 years in the System. Gilliam thanked Madorin for being instrumental in building up the Human Resources unit and for being a trusted partner to him and the leadership team. Patricia Lynch, Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer, will serve in the interim.

Chief of Police Eric Boyce will also retire at the end of December after 27 years in the System. Gilliam noted that during his tenure, Chief Boyce successfully built positive relationships with our student body and strengthened what Gilliam believes is the best campus police department in the System. Succession planning is underway.

Gilliam reported that the university stands to receive as much as \$4.2M in performance metrics funding that President Hans hopes will be distributed this fiscal year. A comprehensive update on performance metrics will be given at the February 2025 Board of Trustees meeting.

In closing, the Chancellor emphasized the importance of keeping our eye on the future, investing in areas of innovation and in those that have growing demand, strengthening fiscal affairs, and continuing to explore ways to conserve resources and maximize revenues.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration Committee

Committee Chair Tim Rice gave the report of the October 29, 2024, Finance and Administration Committee meeting.

Following approval of the August 27, 2024, minutes, Vice Chancellor Shea gave a high-level overview of the recently completed six-year Capital Improvement Plan submitted to the System Office. Bob acknowledged the hard work of the Facilities team in preparing the Plan and hosting the System Office team for on-campus interviews and tours.

Associate Vice Chancellor Sameer Kapileshwari presented five action items on the agenda, which included four capital project requests and a request for increased authority for an existing project.

FAC-1: Main Campus Surface Lots 1 and 7 Repair and Renovation

The Board of Governors delegated authorization of capital improvement projects designed, constructed, and operated by non-general fund money, with a total project cost of \$750,000 to \$4,000,000, to the Board of Trustees.

With an estimated cost of \$1.2M, the improvements to parking lots 1 and 7 fall within this threshold. The 2020 conditions assessment identified the need for imminent repairs for lots 1 and 7, which have 331 and 462 spaces, respectively.

This project's scope will include complete asphalt replacement required to remediate cracking, root intrusion, potholes, and drainage issues. Dumpster pads will be replaced. Lot 07 work also includes addressing proper accessibility. This project will be funded through the Parking and Transportation reserves, and construction will be completed in the summer of 2025.

FAC-2: Tower Village Elevator Replacement

With an estimated cost of \$950,000, this project also falls within the BOG delegation range. The project scope will replace two existing six-stop hydraulic elevators in Tower Village. These elevators were installed during the building's construction in 1993.

The project will be funded through the Housing and Residence Life reserves, and construction will be completed in the summer of 2025.

FAC-3: ITS Data Center Planning Assessment

The ITS Data Center Study project is not a construction project. However, under state guidelines, studies over \$50,000 are considered major capital improvement projects and follow the same processes.

With an estimated project cost of \$300K, the study scope will include evaluating and assessing aging University Data Centers within three campus buildings and selecting data closets within two other buildings. The goal is to obtain recommendations regarding the potential reuse and renovation of current physical facilities and analysis of data storage options.

FAC- 4 Spring Garden Apartments Roof-HVAC Replacement

Per a recent delegation by the Board of Governors under the Board's Construction Task Force, the Board of Trustees has authority to approve Advance Planning. Once the Schematic Design phase is completed and the scope and budget have been more clearly defined, the Capital Request will be brought to the Board of Governors for approval.

Spring Garden Apartments were built in 2005. The roof is 19 years old and shows significant degradation. The annual inspection report shows accelerated deterioration of the single-ply membrane. The building is experiencing roof leaks that damage the apartment ceilings below.

The building's HVAC system comprises individual heat pumps for each apartment unit. The heat pumps use R-22 refrigerant and are primarily obsolete, making partial replacement difficult for some system components. Combining the two projects made sense in coordinating both system replacements, as the roof can only be replaced by removing the heat pumps.

The estimated project cost is \$4.6M, and the advance planning (design and commissioning) will be \$200K. The funding will come from Housing and Residence Life reserves. Construction will start in May 2025 and is slated to be completed by July 2026.

FAC-5: Increase in Authorization Request to the Board of Governors for the Phillips Hawkins Phased Resident Halls HVAC Replacement and Moore Strong Phased Resident Halls HVAC Replacement Project

Previously, this Board and the BOG had approved the Phillips Hawkins and Moore Strong Phased Resident Halls HVAC Replacement project at the total project estimate of **\$10,685,509** to replace the aged mechanical systems in both halls, update mechanical rooms to provide chilled and hot water to HVAC units, and add redundancy to the HVAC system.

Construction bids received in April for the Phillips Hawkins project phase exceeded the design estimate. Negotiation and value engineering occurred with the low bidder, resulting in a construction contract awarded to maintain the required work schedule. Based on this construction contract amount of \$7,870,400, it was determined that the scope for the Moore Strong phase would need to be significantly reduced, and the remaining funding would need to be increased to meet the desired reduced scope.

To move forward with the Moore Strong phase of the project with a reduction in scope, a request for increased authorization for **\$212,000** needs to be brought to the Board of Governors for approval at the December 9, 2024 meeting (or January 2025 if necessary). If approved by this board and the Board of Governors, the increase of \$212K will take the previous authorization from \$10,685,509 to a total project budget of \$10,897,509.

Budget and Endowment Update

Bob updated the committee on the budget, confirming that the revenue was slightly up, considering the Fall '24 enrollment exceeded 18,000. He also stated that the processes that have been in place are controlling expenses.

Bob also updated us on the transition status of the move from Cambridge Associates to Blackrock. The transition is going well, but the target date for completion has been moved from October 31, 2024, to January 2025.

Information Items

The Committee was provided with several additional agenda items as informational reports that were included in the pre-meeting materials. There were no questions or comments about them, and the meeting subsequently adjourned.

Compliance, Audit, Risk Management, & Legal Committee (CARL)

Committee Chair Anita Bachmann gave the report from the October 29, 2024, meeting of the CARL committee.

Consent Agenda

The Committee considered and approved a consent agenda for four items: 1) minutes of the Committee's August 27, 2024, meeting; 2) minutes of the August 27, 2024, joint meeting of the CARL and Athletics Committees; 3) revisions to the CARL Committee Charter, and 4) revisions to the Internal Audit Charter.

Internal Audit Report

Director of Internal Audit Katherine Skinner presented the final results of the external Quality Assessment Review. This comprehensive review by independent assessors evaluates Internal Audit's compliance with the Institute of Internal Auditors' Standards and the Code of Ethics.

Internal Audit received a rating of "Generally Conforms," which is the highest rating possible. The next external Quality Assessment Review will be conducted in 2029.

Policy and Compliance Update

Deputy General Counsel Kristen Bonatz, who serves as Policy Administrator, and Associate General Counsel Enyonam Williams, who serves as Compliance Director, provided an update on the University's policy and compliance program. Williams discussed several compliance initiatives, including the implementation of compliance risk software and the ongoing proactive work of the University's Compliance Committee. She also discussed recent compliance solutions, such as the Civil Rights Compliance portal and the Confidential Reporting System that are now available on the University's website and can be used to report compliance concerns.

Kristen then reviewed the Board of Governors and System Office policy and compliance priorities, which are monitored closely to determine how they may affect UNCG. Vice Chancellor Jerry Blakemore concluded the presentation, noting the importance of continuing to strengthen the University's policy and compliance program by focusing on having the right people in place, updating policies, having practices follow policies, and leveraging technology.

Information Technology Services Update

Associate Vice Chancellor Casey Forrest updated the Committee on Information Technology Services projects. Among other topics, he reported that:

- A simulated phishing campaign for faculty and staff conducted by ITS last month resulted in only 8.9% of participants "taking the bait" and clicking on a phishing email, which is significantly lower than the baseline rates for education, government, and industries overall. Individuals who clicked on the phishing email are receiving refresher training.
- The North Carolina National Guard Cyber Security Response force conducted a simulated cyber-attack last month to check for vulnerabilities in the University's systems; and
- ITS recently held its second annual cybersecurity seminar for UNCG students, which covered cyber security basics, digital footprint, and the risks of social media.

Vice Chancellor Donna Heath provided an update on the University's progress towards developing an Artificial Intelligence strategy. As part of the process, the Chancellor will charge a committee with overseeing the development and implementation of the University's strategy.

The Committee was also provided with an informational update on the Institute of Internal Auditors three lines model, which demonstrates the roles and responsibilities within the University around risk management from an audit standpoint.

University Advancement Committee

Committee Chair Margaret Benjamin gave the report of the October 29, 2024, University Advancement Committee.

Following approval of the August 27, 2024, meeting minutes, Vice Chancellor Fischer gave a University Advancement update sharing year-to-date giving is up 78%, alumni giving is up 49%, and outright giving is up 100%.

November 18 – 22 will be the University's first donor gratitude week, dubbed “Blue, Gold, and Grateful.” During this week, donors will be thanked through communications and outreach such as email videos, thank you notes from students, and a breakfast for faculty and staff donors. Vice Chancellor Fischer thanked Chancellor Gilliam and the Board of Trustees for their leadership and shared that annual giving participation rate for Trustees is and has been 100% for the past five years.

The Chancellor, Vice Chancellor Fischer, and Executive Director Alejandra Merheb shared updates from their visit to New York City for a media event hosted by Linda and Tom Sloan to announce Carol Cole Levin’s \$5M gift to create the Cole Levin Center for Art and Human Understanding at the Weatherspoon Art Museum. The trip included meetings with area donors and reconnecting with area Alumni.

Alejandra Merheb, Executive Director of Alumni Engagement and Advancement Communications, provided a brief review of Homecoming 2024. Of the alumni who registered for Homecoming, 49.9% identified as having been first-generation students. Post-Homecoming survey results were very positive overall. Attendees felt there was great energy and liked the new College Avenue location.

Director of Advancement Communications Amy Newland discussed the First Generation Stole Project crowdfunding Campaign slated to run from November 8 to December 13. This project provides stoles to first-generation students free of charge. Trustees interested in participating in the Stole campaign can reach out to VC Fischer for more information.

Newland also shared a plan to engage first-time donors, which will include personalized thank you videos, mailed welcome packets with thank you messages, stickers, and infographics on donor impact; inclusion in UNCG communications throughout the year, and social media recognition.

The Committee convened in closed session to discuss recommended nominations for Distinguished Service Awards, to be discussed by the full board in closed session.

Academic Affairs Committee

Trustee Tim Rice gave the report of the October 29, 2024, Academic Affairs Committee meeting on behalf of Chair Dean Priddy.

Following approval of the August 27, 2024 minutes, Provost Alan Boyette gave updates on the Faculty Retirement Incentive Program (FRIP) and implementation of the Foundations of American Democracy requirement per new UNC System policy.

FRIP

The FRIP program was established by the Board of Governors to provide a retirement incentive for eligible tenured faculty members at UNCG and four other System campuses facing resource challenges linked to enrollment decline. The voluntary program is not intended to broadly solicit early retirements, but rather to be a management-directed initiative addressing the following legislatively imposed criteria: 1) long-term (recurring) cost savings per offer to the institution, 2) positive long-term impact per offer on institutional efficiency and effectiveness, and 3) total one-time cost of contemplated offers to the institution and its ability to fund.

It provides eligible faculty a retirement incentive in the form of a one-time payment equal to base academic year salary. A total of \$16.8 million was set aside by the Legislature to fund the program across all five participating campuses over a two-year period (2023-24 and 2024-25). Of that, UNCG will receive \$3,825,788 in incentive funding. To date, UNCG has commitments from thirty faculty members at a total of \$3,678,560, leaving a net balance of \$147,228 for subsequent allocation.

The estimated net salary savings is at least \$1.5 million, net of funding reallocation to the colleges and school to ensure instructional coverage to meet student course demands.

A final round of invitations was issued to eligible faculty in late October, and we hope to fully expend the balance of our allocation. If the incentive cost for faculty who accept participation exceeds \$147,228, a pool of one-time funds has been identified to cover the cost. The deadline for making commitments on all incentive funds is January 14, 2025.

Foundations of American Democracy

UNC System policy now requires every student who enrolls for the first time after August 1, 2025 to “successfully complete a course or courses covering the foundations of American democracy” that must substantively include evaluation of: 1) key concepts, principles, arguments, and contexts in founding documents of the American republic (Constitution, Declaration of Independence, representative selection of the Federalist Papers); and 2) key milestones in progress and challenges in the effort to form “a more perfect Union,” including the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Letter from Birmingham Jail, as well as other texts that reflect the breadth of American experiences.

After appropriate consultation with campus stakeholders, UNCG is making this requirement part of the General Education program in a way that doesn’t add courses or hours to degree completion and with minimal impacts on instructional resource allocation. Students will still take one course in each of eleven required general education competencies but will need to take at least one course among them that also carries a Foundations of American Democracy marker. They will receive credit both for the existing requirement and the new requirement in courses that meet all of the relevant learning outcomes.

Boyette reported that campus teams are working now to move new and revised course approvals through the requisite process so they can be scheduled in February for Fall 2025. More courses will be developed, and seats added as necessary in the coming semesters so all students can make degree progress.

Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation

Associate Vice Provost Andrew Hamilton updated us on the university's participation in the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP), a National Science Foundation program that prepares students from under-represented groups in science for success in STEM majors and careers. Led by UNCG, the *Mountains to Sea* LSAMP is comprised of five UNC campuses and is funded by a renewable \$3.5 million, five-year grant. In addition to mentoring and structured professional development, students in the program receive annual stipends to serve as outside-of-class learning assistants for thousands of their peers in introductory science classes. In their third and fourth years, they also receive grant support to participate in faculty-led research, and dozens of LSAMP students across the Alliance receive \$4,000 stipends for unique summer research and internship experiences.

The Committee had the pleasure of hearing from one of them. Rachel Thompson, a UNCG senior biology major/philosophy minor from Asheboro, discussed her experience in the Program and her participation on a team that researched space weather at the NASA Langley Research Center this summer. Their focused study called "Enhancing Aurora Watch Planning at Glacier and Denali National Parks," was selected as the overall winner of the summer and has resulted in a website tool that people planning to visit those parks (which are in Montana and Alaska) can use to determine the best times of year for aurora activity as they plan visits.

Update on Research and Engagement

The meeting closed with a research and engagement update from Vice Chancellor Sherine Obare. In addition to a written informational report on external funding and trends, Obare gave a presentation on sources of federal research and development funding UNCG receives from the various federal agencies. She discussed the impact of these expenditures and doctoral production on the university's Carnegie Classification.

UNCG ranks high nationally based on R&D by all expenditures (229th and 6th in the System – notable because we do not have engineering or medical schools like our higher-ranked sister institutions) and higher still in rankings based on funding received from DHHS (177th and 4th in the System) and other federal agencies (89th and 3rd in the System).

The data is also compelling in identifying agencies where there is significant opportunity for increased federal funding, particularly given developments unique to our region in sectors such as clean energy, EV supply chain, and supersonic air travel. The meeting agenda includes proposals for innovation institutes aimed at leveraging research dollars already received and talent and infrastructure the university already has to tap into these opportunities, enhance research and scholarship, and promote future-forward partnerships and workforce development.

Athletics Committee

Trustee Dale Phipps gave the report of the October 29, 2024, Athletics Committee report on behalf of Committee Chair Ernest Grant.

Following approval of minutes from the August 27th meetings of the Athletics Committee and joint CARL/Athletics Committees, the Committee heard from Mike Jones, Men's Head Basketball Coach. Coach Jones discussed his expectations for UNCG basketball this season and significant changes in the college athletics landscape (transfer portal, NIL, Alston money) and the impacts to UNCG and his program. His focus is on adjusting with the times and he tries to use the transfer portal to his advantage as he basically has to rebuild a team every year. Though we don't have a "marquee" player this year, Coach Jones reported that there is more depth in the roster, that he is pleased with the direction they are going and believes this could be his best team in his four-year tenure at UNCG. Given the rebuilding process necessitated by the transfer portal, Coach focuses on building chemistry and has brought in a sports psychologist to help achieve this.

The Committee discussed how UNCG is positioned with NIL and Alston money relative to other SoCon teams. Coach Jones reported that because we are not as well funded, he looks for undervalued players in the portal who are not as expensive. However, that changes each year, particularly for players who had strong seasons. With recent litigation and pending rulings, next year is poised to become even more challenging in this unregulated environment.

Coach Jones outlined his philosophy around team goals and expectations, based on team culture and relationships. He has three pillars: (1) *Brotherhood*, which is a focus on building relationships, (2) *JUICE* – Just Us In Combat Everyday – the energy and intensity of the team, which feeds off itself and makes them better as a result, and (3) *Fight for Inches* – striving to be better every day in all aspects of life - on the court, in the weight room, academically, and as a teammate, friend, and community member.

Fall Sports Update

Athletic Director Brian Mackin summarized the Fall season athletic achievements, reporting that he is pleased overall with how the season has gone. Men's and Women's Golf have had an outstanding fall. The women have greatly improved, and the men are on track to receive another at-large NCAA bid next Spring. Men's Soccer is playing for the regular season championship this Saturday and is the #1 seed in the upcoming Conference championships.

Women's Soccer is now beginning conference tournament play. Following a win against The Citadel, they play #2 ranked Samford. Volleyball has also significantly improved this year. Men's and Women's Basketball season officially begins next week.

Spartan Club Update

Mackin also discussed the important role of the Spartan Club in fundraising for the department and recapped several recent events. The Hall of Fame Induction over Homecoming weekend was a huge success - about 200 people were in attendance for the ceremony inducting five former athletes and two coaches. It was followed by the annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner which brings together some of our most significant donors who support athletic scholarships with the student-athlete recipients of that support. Next semester will bring the Baseball First Pitch dinner, the Spartan Club Golf Classic, and Spiro's Ball, which are all solid annual fundraising events.

Executive Committee

Chair Hoyle gave a report of the Executive Committee meeting held October 8, 2024. He reported that the Chancellor updated the Committee on a very successful Homecoming weekend as well as on the university's response to Hurricane Helene. Progress with the strategic plan was shared based on feedback received from multiple forums (campus-wide, for individual schools and colleges, and faculty and staff senates). The Committee convened in closed session to discuss a personnel matter, including a non-salary compensation request on the full board meeting agenda.

OPEN SESSION

BOT – 1 Consent Agenda

Hoyle reviewed the consent agenda at BOT – 1, consisting of the following:

- Approval of minutes from the August 29, 2024 meeting.
- Items recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee:
 - New Capital Projects:
 - Main Campus Surface Lots 1 and 7 Repair and Renovation
 - Tower Village Elevator Replacement
 - ITS Data Center Planning Assessment, and
 - Spring Garden Apartments Roof and HVAC Replacement
 - Request for Increased Authorization for the Phillips Hawkins and Moore Strong Phased Resident Halls HVAC Replacement
- Revisions to the CARL Committee Charter as recommended by the CARL Committee.

There being no requests to remove any of the items, Chair Hoyle requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Rice made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Bachmann. The motion carried unanimously.

BOT – 2 Academic Program Review Policy

In May 2024, the Board of Governors adopted policy 400.1 to address the practice of academic program review on the campuses. Each institution was directed to develop a policy in compliance with 400.1 to be approved by the Board of Trustees and submitted to the System Office by January 1, 2025.

The review process is designed to promote academic excellence, support strategic planning, ensure alignment with mission, and facilitate continuous improvement.

Pursuant to 400.1, the campus policy must “describe the process by which the Chancellor, based on the results of an Academic Program Review, takes action to expand, contract, or eliminate an academic program.” It must include specific review criteria delineated in the BOG policy, including student demand, workforce demand, and student outcomes, and must also ensure that each program is reviewed at least once in a 7-year cycle, unless the program has an external accreditor.

Associate Vice Provost Jodi Pettazoni presented the proposed UNCG policy, which presents the structure for 1) development of a self-study as part of Academic Program Review; 2) review of that document by leadership, external reviewers, and Faculty Senate; and 3) follow-up actions for continuous improvement of the program. It also requires the Chancellor to make decisions about program expansion, contraction, no action, or elimination, and to report those decisions to the UNC System Office annually. A process document is also being developed to guide implantation of the policy, and will include a timeline, orientation of faculty, templates, details of how accredited programs will supplement their accreditation reviews, consistent data provided by the Office of Institutional Research and Enterprise Data Management (IREDM) and Finance & Administration, a full review schedule, and summary reports.

Following discussion, Chair Hoyle invited a motion to approve the policy. Trustee Coleman made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Rice. The motion carried unanimously.

BOT – 3 Establishment of Innovation Institutes

Vice Chancellor Obare presented two proposals for establishment of innovation institutes requiring approval by the Board of Trustees.

3.1 The Battery Research Innovation and Green Energy Harvesting Technologies (BRIGHT) Institute

In the last five years, the Piedmont Triad region has seen a rise in the launch of new technology companies and in the success of established companies focused on green energy and microelectronics. Examples include Toyota Battery Manufacturing, Qorvo, Inc., Guerrilla RF, and Boom Supersonic. Yet, the raw materials required to accelerate their manufacturing processes are limited and currently imported from other countries. Our region has access to some of the largest economically viable domestic deposits of the critical materials these companies need. In fact, the largest hard rock deposit of lithium in the country is a 25-mile-long belt of ore that stretches along the Carolinas, and in North Carolina alone, there are 25 mines of mineral ores.

This presents a unique opportunity to address materials supply chain challenges while allowing local industries to expand and bring new economic activity to the triad and the state.

Currently, there is a need to build capacity for research, education, and workforce development to support these emerging companies as well as national efforts that focus on production of critical raw materials for these industries’ supply chain.

The need is even greater when it comes to preparing a North Carolina workforce equipped for such emerging fields, especially individuals from rural populations who often seek such opportunities. To this end, UNC Greensboro will launch the BRIGHT Institute that will focus on research and development, workforce development, and partnerships that advance learning opportunities for students. By tapping into the available mineral resources, the BRIGHT Institute will work to unlock a vast potential for economic growth and workforce development to foster a thriving innovation ecosystem.

In doing so, BRIGHT will capitalize on regional strengths and address regional challenges by bringing together academic institutions, industry partners, and community and government stakeholders from across the region. BRIGHT will unlock significant investment in the segments of the critical materials supply chain, and innovations in smart microelectronics and batteries, impacting clean energy transition and resilience economy. BRIGHT's objectives are to (1) innovate in climate-smart research and development for battery materials, battery components, semiconductors, sensors, and microelectronics (2) create customized certificate programs to align with industry needs, and (3) revitalize the economies in and provide societal mobility for the most historically disadvantaged communities in the region through training programs.

Recent acquisition of funding from NC Innovation (\$400K) and NC Collaboratory (\$800K) for research and development serves as seed funding for BRIGHT. Robust work is underway to increase current funding and acquisition of future funding from external sources to support operations and staffing.

Institute for the Convergence of Optimizing Methods for Military Advances and National Defense (COMMAND)

North Carolina has one of the largest military footprints of any state in the country, representing three out of the four branches of service. Military and defense industries are the second largest employers, and the military has an economic impact of over \$66 billion annually in North Carolina. The military bases are major drivers in our communities, allowing families and businesses to prosper through the collaborations and partnerships that have developed between government agencies, military and defense sectors, and institutions of higher education.

Leveraging these resources, the COMMAND institute will coordinate and advance research, scholarship, and technologies that lead to innovation and partnerships in critical areas related to the defense sector.

The Institute will be built on a convergence approach, bringing researchers together from all disciplines that have a shared interest in building capacity that advances the wellbeing of military personnel, and their health and wellness, as well as the science and technologies required for their empowerment while serving our nation.

The Institute will also be a place that strengthens partnerships between UNC Greensboro and Department of Defense labs around the country, enabling students to develop skills needed to serve this critical national priority. UNC Greensboro continues to be recognized as a military-friendly institution with an increasing growth in veteran population.

COMMAND will also grow opportunities for our veteran student population to contribute to these research areas and be strongly equipped to lead in innovations within this field.

Significant technological advances that have emerged during the past two decades have made our world interconnected and productive, yet these same advances have also made the battlefield more complicated and dangerous for our military. The goals to be met through research and scholarship work in the Institute will cover various interdisciplinary topics that will develop the knowledge and understanding required to support the future operating environment for military, such as threat trends and military conditions. This work can be used to understand and develop protective measures and technologies that will enable the military to tackle challenges with the right set of tools. The Institute will be a convenor for UNCG researchers and students whose studies and interests are related to defense. Through collaborations and partnerships, the work can lead to capabilities to develop the technologies and protective measures required for advancing the safety and quality of life of military/veterans and their families and lead to transformative change.

Recent acquisition of funding from the UNC System is foundational to the establishment of COMMAND. Robust work is underway to increase current funding and the acquisition of future funding from external sources to support operations and staffing.

Following discussion, Chair Hoyle invited a motion to approve the innovation institutes as presented in BOT – 3. Trustee Coleman made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Bachmann. The motion carried unanimously.

Transition to Closed Session

Chair Hoyle announced that the final items on the agenda required discussion in closed session. He reminded the board that closed session discussion would be limited to agenda items BOT-4, 5, and 6, and that votes would not be taken until open session resumed.

Hoyle also advised members of the public viewing the meeting online that the livestream would remain active during the closed session and would resume after.

Motion to Enter Closed Session

Chair Hoyle moved to convene in closed session pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a)(1), (2), (5), and (6) of the North Carolina Open Meetings Law to:

- Prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes,
- Prevent the premature disclosure of an honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award,
- Establish the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract, and
- Consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment or conditions of initial employment of an individual employee or prospective employee.

As seconded by Trustee Coleman, the motion carried unanimously. Closed session began at 11:19 am.

General Account of Closed Session Discussion

Members Present: George Hoyle, Chair; Mae Douglas, Vice Chair; Linda Sloan, Secretary; Anita Bachmann, Margaret Benjamin, David Brown, Oita Coleman, Dale Phipps, Dean Priddy, Tim Sessoms, Tim Rice, Amber Fairchild

Others Present: Chancellor Frank Gilliam; Interim Provost Alan Boyette (BOT – 4 and 5); Vice Chancellor Beth Fischer (BOT – 4); Jeanne Madorin, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Human Resources Officer (BOT – 5 and 6); Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kristen Bonatz, Deputy General Counsel; Kelly Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees

BOT – 4 Recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards

As recommended by the University Advancement Committee, Trustee Mae Douglas presented two nominations for the university’s Distinguished Service Awards – one for the McIver Medal and one for the Holderness/Weaver Award.

BOT – 5 Personnel Report dated October 11, 2024

The Board discussed a personnel report consisting of emeritus status recommendations and informational personnel updates.

BOT – 6 Request for Non-Salary Compensation

AVC Madorin presented a request for non-salary compensation.

The closed session ended at 11:25 am.

OPEN SESSION

Following resumption of open session, Chair Hoyle confirmed that discussion during the closed session was limited to agenda items BOT-4, 5 and 6.

Vote on Closed Session Items

BOT – 4 Recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards

Chair Hoyle invited a motion to approve the Distinguished Service Awards recommendations as presented in agenda item BOT – 4. Trustee Benjamin made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Brown. The motion carried unanimously.

BOT – 5 Personnel Report dated October 11, 2024

Chair Hoyle invited a motion to approve the personnel report presented in agenda item BOT – 5. Trustee Rice made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Sessoms. The motion carried unanimously.

BOT – 6 Non-Salary Bonus Compensation

Chair Hoyle invited a motion to approve the non-salary compensation request presented in agenda item BOT – 6. Trustee Bachmann made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees