



**Academic Affairs Committee  
October 29, 2024**

**DRAFT Minutes**

---

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:** Dean Priddy, Chair

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chancellor Franklin Gilliam; Dr. Alan Boyette, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor; Dr. Sherine Obare, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement; Dr. Andrew Hamilton, Dean of Undergraduate Studies; Rachel Thompson, UNCG Student; 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:**

Acting Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 1:45pm. He read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement reminding board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest or the appearances of conflicts of interest. None were identified.

Roll call was read, and a quorum was confirmed.

The minutes of the August 27, 2024, committee meeting were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

*AAC – 1 Academic Affairs Update (Boyette)*

Provost Boyette provided an update on the Faculty Realignment Incentive Program (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: long term (recurring) cost savings per offer to the institution, positive long-term impact per offer on institutional efficiency and effectiveness, and total one-time cost of contemplated offers to the institution and its ability to fund.

It provides eligible faculty with 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 30 faculty members at a total of \$3,678,560, leaving a net balance of \$147,228 for subsequent allocations.

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.

Provost Boyette also provided an update on the new “Foundations of American Democracy” requirement. Every student who enrolls for the first time after August 1, 2025 is to “successfully complete a course or courses covering the foundations of American democracy” that must substantively include evaluation of: key concepts, principles, arguments, and contexts in founding documents of the American republic (Constitution, Declaration of Independence, representative selection of the Federalist Papers); and 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.

Provost 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.

#### *AAC – 2      Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation*

Associate Vice Provost Andrew Hamilton provided an update 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.

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.

*AAC – 3 Update on Research and Engagement*

Vice Chancellor Sherine Obare gave an update on Research and Engagement. In addition to the information on external funding and trends included in our pre-meeting materials, Sherine gave an impactful presentation breaking down the 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.

We learned that 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).

Vice Chancellor Obare shared that this data is 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.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

*AAC – 4 Candidates Awarded Degrees and Certificates in August 2024*

The roster of candidates awarded degrees and certificates in August 2024 was included with the Committee’s pre-meeting materials. There were no questions or comments about the report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor