



UNC
GREENSBORO
Board of Trustees

Academic Affairs Committee

February 4, 2025

DRAFT Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Priddy (Chair); David Brown; Mae Douglas; George Hoyle; Linda Sloan

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE: Tim Rice

OTHERS PRESENT: Chancellor Franklin Gilliam; Alan Boyette, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, Liaison; Beth Fischer, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement; Sherine Obare, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement; Tina McEntire, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management; Joel Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Board; and other members of the administration, faculty, staff, and public.

PROCEEDINGS:

Chair Priddy called the meeting to order at 1:45pm and read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement. None were identified.

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

Minutes from the October 29, 2024 meeting of the Committee were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

Discussion Items:

AAC – 1 Academic Affairs Update

Provost Boyette provided updates on the status of the ongoing dean searches. For the Bryan School of Business and Economics, UNCG is working with the search firm, Isaacson Miller. The Search Committee and Provost Boyette interviewed six semi-finalists in mid-January and have selected three finalists, all of whom hold leadership positions at prestigious business schools. These finalists will visit campus for interviews the week of February 10th, with a final selection expected by late February and a negotiated start date by summer.

The search for a new dean for the College of Arts & Sciences is also progressing with Isaacson Miller's support. The Search Committee has identified eight semi-finalists, including two sitting deans, two associate or senior associate deans, three department heads or chairs, and one founding director of a large research center. These candidates come from prominent universities and will be interviewed during the week of February 17, with three to four finalists invited for campus visits the week of March 2. The goal is to finalize a selection and negotiate an appointment by mid-March, with a start date this summer.

The search for a new dean of the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN) is being conducted with the firm Witt-Kieffer. Provost Boyette and NCA&T Provost Tonya Smith-Jackson, who jointly oversee the process, recently received the Search Committee's list of recommended semi-finalists. After reviewing the list, they will determine which candidates proceed to virtual interviews before selecting finalists for campus visits. The goal is to complete this search on a timeline close to that of the College of Arts & Sciences, also targeting a summer start date.

Provost Boyette then provided an update on the Faculty Retirement Incentive Program (FRIP). This program, established by the Board of Governors, was designed to encourage the retirement of eligible tenured faculty at UNCG and four other system campuses experiencing resource constraints due to enrollment decline. The initiative provided participants with a one-time payout equal to their base academic year salary. Because faculty who opted in had a 52-day withdrawal period, the university had to issue multiple rounds of invitations to ensure full utilization of the allocated funds. Ultimately, 35 faculty members from across academic units participated, with nursing being the only exception due to the high demand for those positions. UNCG received \$3.8 million in incentive funding and added an additional \$340,000 to prevent underspending, bringing the total one-time cost to \$4.14 million. After factoring in replacement costs for essential faculty positions, the university expects to achieve at least \$1.6 million in permanent budget savings, with actual savings anticipated to be higher due to the Provost's strategic reduction of position and salary allocations to deans.

AAC – 2 Enrollment Update

Vice Chancellor Tina McEntire presented an update on enrollment for the 2024-2025 academic year. She reported that first-year applications exceeded 14,000, marking an 8.5% increase from the previous year. Transfer applications and admitted transfer students have also increased by 9.5%. In collaboration with graduate departments, UNCG has developed new enrollment projections for 2025 through 2027, which will be presented in greater detail at the April board meeting. Current projections indicate a 1.2% enrollment decline in 2025, followed by stabilization over the next two years.

AAC – 3 Update on Research and Engagement

Vice Chancellor Sherine Obare reported that in the first half of the fiscal year, UNCG submitted 199 research proposals totaling \$130.8 million, a 56% increase compared to the \$83.5 million submitted during the same period last year. Award funding has also risen by 8%, reaching \$40.9 million. Obare highlighted several major research awards, including \$1.6 million from the NC Department of Health & Human Services to the Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships for education and advocacy initiatives supporting youth and family well-being. An additional \$4 million has been secured to fund a program focusing on parental skill training, crisis support, and legal assistance. Psychology professor Kari Eddington received over \$1 million from the NC Department of Health & Human Services to address health workforce shortages and improve access to mental health services. Additionally, Dr. Lisa Phillips of the SERVE Center secured over \$1.5 million from the NC Department of Public Instruction to support initiatives aimed at assisting North Carolina’s homeless population, including expanding educational access and developing rural education achievement programs.

Transition to Closed Session

Chair Priddy announced that the following agenda item, AAC – 4, required that the Committee convene in closed session. He reminded the Committee that the only topic of conversation during the closed session would be AAC – 4, and that no vote would be taken until the Committee returned to open session. Priddy then invited a motion to enter closed session pursuant to North Carolina Open Meetings Law § 143-318.11(2) in order to prevent the premature disclosure of an honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award.

Trustee Hoyle made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Sloan. The motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Priddy (Chair); David Brown; Mae Douglas; George Hoyle; Linda Sloan

OTHERS PRESENT: Chancellor Franklin Gilliam; Alan Boyette, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor; Beth Fischer, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Discussion Item:

AAC – 4 Candidates for Honorary Degrees

Provost Boyette presented, and the Committee discussed, two nominations for honorary degrees as recommended by the University Committee on Honorary Degrees.

Open Session

AAC – 4 Candidates for Honorary Degrees

Following return to open session, Chair Priddy invited a motion to approve the honorary degree nominations as presented in agenda item AAC – 4. Trustee Brown made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Hoyle. The motion carried unanimously.

Information Item

AAC – 5 Candidates Awarded Degrees and Certificates in December 2024

The Committee received an informational report of the candidates who were awarded degrees and certificates in December 2024 with their pre-meeting materials. There were no questions or comments about the report.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees