



**Special Called Meeting and Retreat
May 19, 2026**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Hoyle, Chair; Anita Bachmann, Vice Chair; Linda Sloan, Secretary; Margaret Benjamin, David Brown, Fox Brown, Oita Coleman, Mae Douglas, Matthew Rankin, Tim Sessoms

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE: Ernest Grant, Dale Phipps, Tim Rice

OTHERS PRESENT: Chancellor Frank Gilliam; Dr. Alan Boyette, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor; Jerry Blakemore, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel; Beth Fischer, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement; John Loonan, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Brian Mackin, Director of Athletics; Tina McEntire, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management; Kathryn Crockart, Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications; Joel Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management; Wade Maki, incoming Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Sameer Kapileshwari, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities; Kelly Harris, Associate Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees, and other members of the staff and general public.

Proceedings

Chair Hoyle called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. He reviewed many of the significant highlights of the 2025-2026 academic year, including the close of the \$266M Light the Way Campaign and the successful search for a new CFO, welcoming new Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration John Loonan. Hoyle then read the conflict-of-interest statement; none were identified. Roll call was read, and a quorum was confirmed.

Following roll call, Hoyle recognized and thanked Trustee Fox Brown, outgoing SGA President, for his contributions to the board.

Chancellor's Remarks

Chancellor Gilliam opened remarks by recognizing and welcoming Vice Chancellor Loonan and mentioning the UNCG Softball team's first NCAA win. He then updated the board on UNC System performance metrics and UNCG's strong outcomes, including exceeding stretch goals in five of six metrics, with significant gains in completion, efficiency, and affordability. Among them, the 4-year graduation rate increased to 45.44%, first-time student debt decreased by 20.7%, and transfer student debt decreased by 26.7%.

Gilliam reported that UNCG's coordinated student success strategy continues to position the university well across the performance metrics. Investments in early intervention, advising, academic support, degree planning, and curricular alignment are strengthening student progression, completion, and affordability outcomes.

Likewise, integrated advising, early alerts, and academic support promote timely intervention and student success, while ongoing curricular alignment and degree planning are building clearer degree pathways and improving coordinated support for our students.

The Chancellor's remarks continued with the latest information on the status of a state budget, positive early indications for fall enrollment, and an announcement about FIFA Team Norway's scheduled community practice event on June 10.

Approval of Minutes – March 19, 2026

The minutes of the March 19, 2026 meeting of the Board of Trustees were approved without additions or corrections.

BOT – 1 Request for Increase in Authorization – Spring Garden Apartments HVAC and Roof Replacement Project

Associate Vice Chancellor Sameer Kapileshwari presented a request for approval to seek increased authority from the Board of Governors for the Spring Garden Apartments HVAC and Roof Replacement project, which was previously authorized at \$4,815,000. The lowest base bid submitted during the requisite bidding process significantly exceeded that amount and negotiations with that bidder were unsuccessful. Kapileshwari reported that Sigma Engineered Solutions, PC, the project designer, has descoped the bidders, examined the numbers, and revised their cost estimate to \$6,200,000. The university has added \$500,000 for additional contingency to ensure successful bidding, bringing a new total project authorization to \$7,815,000. As such, the administration is seeking Board of Trustees approval to present a request for the additional \$3,000,000 to the Board of Governors at their July 23, 2026 meeting.

Following discussion, on motion by Trustee Coleman, seconded by Trustee Benjamin, the board unanimously voted to approve the request to the Board of Governors for increased authorization in the amount of \$3,000,000, bringing the total revised project authorization to \$7,815,000.

BOT – 2 Annual Athletics Summary Report

The board's pre-meeting materials included the annual athletics summary report submitted to the UNC System Office. The report covered information on student-athlete recruiting, academic profiles, indicators of academic success among student-athletes, academic integrity, and departmental financial data. There were no questions or comments about the report.

BOT – 3 Proposed Slate of Officers for 2025-2026

Pre-meeting materials also included the Nominating Committee’s proposed slate of Board of Trustees officers for academic year 2026-2027 as follows.

Chair	George Hoyle
Vice Chair	Anita Bachmann
Secretary	Linda Sloan
Executive Committee	Mae Douglas
Executive Committee	Tim Rice

Per UNC Code, elections will be held at the July 14, 2026 meeting. Chair Hoyle announced that additional nominations could be submitted to Assistant Secretary Harris in the interim, and thanked Trustee Mae Douglas, chair of the Nominating Committee, for spearheading the process. There were no questions or comments.

Transition to Closed Session

Chair Hoyle announced that agenda item BOT – 4 required discussion in closed session. He reminded the board that closed session discussion would be limited to that agenda item and that a vote would not be taken until open session resumed.

Motion to Enter Closed Session

Chair Hoyle moved to convene in closed session pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a)1, 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,
- Consider 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 2:04 pm.

General Account of Closed Session Discussion

Members Present: George Hoyle, Chair; Anita Bachmann, Vice Chair, Linda Sloan, Secretary; Margaret Benjamin, David Brown, Fox Brown, Oita Coleman, Mae Douglas, Matthew Rankin, Tim Sessoms

Others Present: Chancellor Frank Gilliam, Provost Alan Boyette, Jerry Blakemore, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel; Brian Mackin, Director of Athletics; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees

BOT – 4 Head Coach Contracts

Athletics Director Brian Mackin presented proposed head coach contracts for Men's Basketball and Women's Soccer.

Following discussion, the closed session concluded at 2:16 pm.

OPEN SESSION

Following return to open session, Chair Hoyle confirmed that closed session discussion was limited to the contracts presented in agenda item BOT – 4.

BOT – 4 Head Coach Contracts

Chair Hoyle invited a motion to approve the head coach contracts presented in agenda item BOT – 4. Trustee Rankin made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Benjamin. The motion carried unanimously.

Retreat Session I: Continuing Development – Free Expression

General Counsel Blakemore and incoming Senior Advisor Wade Maki presented a review of free expression rights and responsibilities and institutional neutrality as they pertain to the trustee role and led a discussion on recent cases in the media involving higher education trustees and elected officials.

Retreat Session II: City Square Associates Market Research Update

Chair Hoyle introduced City Square Associates' founder and director, Christopher Schiavone, and Phil Cook, senior research director, who presented a preliminary overview of key themes and takeaways from the market research project conducted during the spring semester. The project was a multi-phase engagement that included a broad range of populations and constituents (current and prospective students, alumni, parents, members of the general public, employers, and guidance counselors) with the goal of exploring and understanding how those constituents view UNCG, how familiar they are with the university, what it is known for, and what they look to it to provide as an institution.

The board engaged in a discussion involving their aspirations for the university, their perception of the challenges that should be prioritized, assumptions or hypotheses for what the research revealed, and their ideas on how the university can act on the findings moving forward.

Following discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Harris
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees