



Academic Affairs Committee
September 22, 2026

Information Item

AAC – 5 Report of Vacancy in Titled Professorships

Background Information

In 1985, the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund (“the Fund”) was established by the North Carolina General Assembly to enable each constituent institution within the UNC System to receive and match challenge grants to create endowed professorships for selected distinguished professors. It was codified in the UNC Policy Manual at [600.2.3](#) (Policy on Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund). Subsequent amendments to the legislation since then have defined specific parameters including faculty eligibility requirements, grant amount limits, and the proviso that distinguished professorships created pursuant to the program be in a STEM subject (defined as any field of scholarship related to science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, excluding law and journalism).

Each constituent institution reports vacancies in endowed professorships established by the Fund to the UNC System Office pursuant to policy regulations ([600.2.3\[R\]](#)) adopted in 2022. The information below is being provided in keeping with December 2024 amendments to the regulation, which required reporting to the Board of Trustees.

Current Vacancies Reported to System Office:

1. Moses Cone Health System Distinguished Professorship in the School of Nursing, with state matching funds of \$167,000.00.
2. Randall R. Kaplan Distinguished Professorship in Innovation, with state matching funds of \$667,000.

In addition to the two vacancies listed above, two additional distinguished professorships are awaiting state funding. Once funding is received, we will begin the process to fill those professorships.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Alan Boyette".

J. Alan Boyette
Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor