



**Academic Affairs Committee**

**March 17, 2026**

**DRAFT Minutes**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Brown (Acting Chair); Fox Brown, SGA; George Hoyle; Matthew Rankin; Tim Rice; Linda Sloan

**MEMBERS ABSENT with NOTICE:** Mae Douglas, Chair

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chancellor Franklin Gilliam; Provost Alan Boyette; Vice Chancellor Sherine Obare, Dr. Randy Penfield, Senior Vice Provost; Regina McCoy, Vice Provost for Student Success; Jodi Pettazzoni, Vice Provost for Academic Programming and Accreditation; 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 Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30am and read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement reminding board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest. None were identified.

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

Minutes of the November 11, 2025, committee meeting were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

***AAC – 1 Academic Affairs Update***

***Personnel Updates***

Provost Boyette opened the meeting with a leadership update. Dr. Kimberly “Kim” Petersen has been appointed Dean of Lloyd International Honors College after serving as interim since August 2025. A UNCG faculty member since 2011 and professor of chemistry, she brings strong experience in research, teaching, and leadership, and is a recipient of the 2025 UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award.

The search for the next Dean of the School of Education is nearing completion, with a finalist selected and pending final approval. An announcement is expected soon. The search for a new University Libraries Dean is also underway following Mike Crumpton’s planned retirement on June 1, with finalist interviews scheduled for April and an appointment anticipated shortly thereafter.

## *Policy Changes*

Provost Boyette also updated the Committee on policy changes at the system level. In December, President Hans approved a new regulation classifying syllabi as public records and requiring their release upon request, effective January 15 of this year. While this does not represent a change in UNCG's practice, a second part of the regulation does: beginning this fall, syllabi must be posted publicly one week before classes begin. To support the transition, a campus working group co-chaired by Senior Vice Provost Randy Penfield and Faculty Senate Chair Chuck Bolton developed recommendations for compliance. The provost has approved those recommendations, and implementation is in progress.

In addition, the Board of Governors recently revised the UNC System Code to incorporate a formal definition of academic freedom—the first of its kind in North Carolina. The policy, which was initially developed by the UNC Faculty Assembly and refined by the BOG based on campus and Assembly comments, has just been released and will be evaluated as it is applied.

### ***AAC – 2 Bryan School of Business and Economics Presentation***

Dean Joy Bhadury provided a brief overview of the Bryan School's student career and professional development programming, highlighting the Bryan Blueprint required curriculum, the Bryan Gold co-curricular program, and the Bryan School's career and professional development events. Three very impressive student speakers discussed how these programs have been transformational to their education. Two are graduating this semester and will be starting full time positions with Fidelity Investments and Capital One, and the third, a junior, will begin an internship with Amazon this summer. All credited the Bryan School's mentorship and professional development opportunities as key contributors to their success.

### ***AAC – 3 Research & Engagement Update***

Vice Chancellor Sherine Obare gave an update on UNCG's research activity and overall trajectory. The latest Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) survey reports UNCG's total research expenditures of \$77.4 million – this is the highest in our history and marks a significant milestone in our research growth. HERD data also benchmarks the university's performance against national peers. Sherine emphasized several key outcomes:

- For the first time, UNCG has entered the top 200 institutions in the US for research activity, positioning us in a new and more competitive national tier.
- Within the UNC System, we rank #5 overall in research expenditures. That rank rises to #2 when accounting for non-science and engineering disciplines, reflecting our broad-based research strengths.

These gains reflect intentional institutional efforts, and result from growing research activity and deliberate investments in the structures that enable sustainable, high-impact research.

**Information Items**

Following a brief mention of the roster of candidates awarded degrees and certificates in December, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees