UNC GREENSBORO
Board *of* Trustees

Meeting of the Full Board
September 24, 2026

DRAFT MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lena Brown

OTHERS PRESENT: Chancellor Frank Gilliam; Dr. Alan Boyette, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor; John Loonan, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Cathy Akens, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Jerry Blakemore, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel; Beth Fischer, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement; Donna Heath, Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Services; Kathryn Crockart, Associate Vice Chancellor for University Communications; Joel Lee, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management; Patricia Lynch, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Human Resources Officer; Brian Mackin, Director of Athletics; Wade Maki, Chancellor's Fellow for Strategic Planning; Sherine Obare, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement; Juan Pleitez, Director of External Affairs; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Associate Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees, and other members of the faculty, staff, and general public.

Proceedings

Chair Hoyle called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and read the conflict-of-interest statement; none were identified. Roll call was read, and a quorum was confirmed.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Hoyle welcomed Margaret McCoy of the UNC System Office to the meeting as part of an exchange program for board professionals and recognized the addition of SGA President Lena Brown to the Board. He thanked Trustee Oita Coleman for leading the College's very well attended September 14 GOAT parade and congratulated Athletics Staff members Jennifer Aguilar, Matt Kirkman, and Laura Mazziotta who were recognized by Greensboro's Mayor and City Council for their hard work and efforts during FIFA Team Norway's time at UNCG.

Hoyle then shared several notable facts and statistics, including a 15% increase in alumni giving year over year, a record $43.75 million in fundraising for FY26, and media reach from January through August that was 89 times higher than in the same period in 2025. Additionally, Hoyle reported that School of Education Dean Morgan Chitiyo received the international Africa Leadership Award, UNCG's Spartan CyberGuardian Academy was featured in Google's 2026 impact report, and the following U.S. News & World Report rankings:

- first in North Carolina for social mobility for the 8th consecutive year and 18th nationally among 420 institutions, and
- among North Carolina publics and privates, UNCG ranked fifth for value for North Carolina students and eighth overall.

Hoyle shared housing statistics as a precursor to Vice Chancellor Joel Lee's enrollment update on the meeting agenda. He reported that residence halls are full, with 5,647 residential students this fall. Of those, 1,986 are new first-time students, meaning 73% of the new freshman class chose to live on campus. Chair Hoyle noted that this supports enrollment and auxiliaries, which are important components of the university's fiscal outlook.

Chancellor's Report

Building on Chair Hoyle's remarks, Chancellor Gilliam reported on UNCG's strong community presence at recent events, including his panel participation at the Chamber's State of the Community and the North Carolina Folk Festival, where an estimated 160,000 people attended over three days. Looking ahead, the University will celebrate the naming of the Evenson School of Education Building and the opening of the innovative Jeanne Tannenbaum Center for Creative Practice, milestones that reflect the momentum and investment shaping UNCG's future.

From a budgetary standpoint, UNCG expects approximately $15.3 million in new recurring and one-time state funding, driven largely by enrollment growth in select programs and improved retention. Sixty percent of those funds will be invested in current growth areas, including academic programs and student-support services, while the remaining 40% will be directed strategically toward future opportunities in areas where UNCG can be first to market in fields where demand reaches a tipping point and where promising new programs can be launched with a low barrier to entry. As an example, Gilliam cited the successful eSports program. Launched with a modest investment, the program has generated significant growth in just a few years, creating new opportunities in education, workforce preparation, industry partnerships, and statewide outreach. UNCG is now an Epic Games/Unreal Engine Academic Partner and one of only four institutions in Epic's Education Alliance. Student demand is strong, and UNCG plans to launch North Carolina's first public-university B.A. in Game Studies next fall. Through the Scholastic Esports Alliance and SparkNC, the University is also connecting with more than 350 North Carolina high schools to build a statewide talent pipeline for fast-growing media and technology fields.

Gilliam also summarized noteworthy topics that were covered in September Board of Governors meetings, which are indicators of the priorities for this academic year. The Budget and Finance Committee has established tuition and fees parameters which allow flexibility for campuses to propose limited adjustments with the proviso that institutions must first manage expenses and identify efficiencies before considering increases. UNCG's request will be presented to the Board of Trustees in November before submission to the System Office. The Committee also discussed intercollegiate athletics financing and ongoing sustainability in the changing national landscape. Additional Board of Governors priorities include a refresh of the System strategic plan and performance metrics, academic integrity in the age of AI, and campus free-speech and equality policy certifications. Lastly, Gilliam reported that two special committees of the Board of Governors were established. A Committee on University Funding will consider whether current funding approaches remain appropriately aligned with the System's mission and long-term financial sustainability and identify opportunities for improvement where appropriate. A Committee on Associated Entities will work to build a shared understanding of these entities' scope, structure, governance, and compliance, as well as identify opportunities to strengthen accountability and stewardship while streamlining oversight.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration Committee

Committee Chair Tim Rice reported on the Finance and Administration Committee meeting held September 22, 2026. Rice reported that during the meeting, Vice Chancellor John Loonan provided a comprehensive summary of the current fiscal year's budget impact from the approved North Carolina State budget. UNCG's strong and consistent enrollment growth resulted in $15.3 million of enrollment growth funding. Additionally, the state budget increased the distribution of the state's gambling tax to UNCG from $2.4 million to $3 million. The approved budget also increased UNCG employee pay by 3% and authorized a one-time bonus to be paid in October.

Associate Vice Chancellor Sameer Kapileshwari presented, and the Committee approved, a request to seek full authorization on a total budget of $10.98M from the Board of Governors for the North and South Spencer HVAC Replacement project. Since Advance Planning funding was authorized, the project has advanced through design development, resulting in a refined scope, schedule, and cost estimate.

North and South Spencer, which were built in 1904 and 1907, respectively, contain HVAC systems and related equipment that have exceeded their useful life. Much of the infrastructure is 20 to 30 years old, resulting in increasing maintenance requirements and operational challenges. This project will replace aging HVAC equipment, improve system reliability and redundancy, enhance energy efficiency, and support the long-term functionality of both facilities.

The Committee also received and briefly discussed two informational updates:

- A report on the selection of the design firm for the High-Rise Roof Replacement project pursuant to authority delegated to the Chancellor, and
- An update on activities and progress within Facilities Design and Construction.

Compliance, Audit, Risk Management, and Legal Affairs (CARL) Committee

Committee Chair Anita Bachmann reported on the CARL Committee meeting held September 22, 2026. The Committee first considered and approved a consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the Committee's March 17, 2026, meeting, the 2026-2027 CARL Committee Work Plan, and the 2026-2028 Internal Audit Work, Resource, and Budget Plan.

Director of Internal Audit Katherine Skinner reported that Internal Audit recently completed three required annual audits, which each resulted in findings that all applicable requirements have been met.

- The annual Purchasing Card, or "P-card," Audit found that UNCG's policies comply with UNC System requirements and that tested transactions complied with those policies.
- The Emergency Communication and Alert System Audit found that UNCG's policies and procedures comply with UNC System requirements; and
- The Weatherspoon Art Museum Annual Inventory Audit concluded that inventory records are reliable and support the reported value of the collection.

Skinner also reported that Internal Audit has followed up on North Carolina State Auditor Single Audit findings and verified that progress has been made toward remediation, with additional follow-up work still in progress. She closed by reporting that the Office of Internal Audit continues to make solid progress against the audit plan and has achieved a self-assessment score reflecting a strong and effective audit function.

The Committee also heard an Information Technology Services update from Vice Chancellor Donna Heath and Associate Vice Chancellor Casey Forrest. Dr. Forrest provided an overview of current cyber security activity, ongoing risk reduction efforts, and the University's work to support the responsible use of AI. He also reviewed ITS security priorities and ongoing review work planned through the end of the year, including annual cyber security awareness training during October, which is Cyber Security Awareness Month. The update concluded with discussion of UNCG's 12-month AI Pilot Program, which provides secure, supported access to AI tools for evaluation, and "Spartan AI," UNCG's generative AI workspace, which gives faculty, staff, and students secure access to multiple leading models in one place, supporting exploration, appropriate use, and informed decisions about future AI services.

University Advancement Committee

Committee Chair Margaret Benjamin reported that, in lieu of the University Advancement Committee meeting on September 22, all trustees had the opportunity to take a hard-hat tour of the University Library renovation led by Skanska's Emmalee Morris. The group toured several floors, viewing first-floor space that will house future classroom and open study areas, the second-floor future home of the "Perch," which will be a glass-enclosed space above the Walker Avenue entrance with comfortable seating, and the upper floors, including the future Bank of America Learning Lounge. Benjamin reported that the renovation has been largely informed by student input around increased study space and natural light. Phase one of the project is expected to be complete in March 2027, with the full renovation currently scheduled for the second quarter of 2028.

Academic Affairs Committee

Acting Committee Chair David Brown reported on the Academic Affairs Committee meeting held September 22, 2026, which began with an update from Provost Boyette on UNCG's AI strategy, program review, new academic programs, and the Syllabus Library.

- Spartan AI, launched September 14, provides secure access to leading AI models for students, faculty, and staff. A 17-member AI Ready Graduate Workgroup and five faculty pilots involving about 370 students will guide its responsible expansion.
- UNCG is completing the first cycle of its internal academic program review, covering more than 50 accredited degrees and certificates. The Board will receive a report in November 2026, with additional reviews planned for 2027 and 2028. The Committee also discussed new, high-demand programs. Health, Medicine, and Society launched this fall; the Master of Occupational Therapy is expected in 2028; and Emerging Media, Game Studies, and Criminology are advancing toward fall 2027 launches.
- The public UNCG Syllabus Library launched August 11 to meet a UNC System requirement and provides searchable access to syllabi for approximately 3,400 eligible fall 2026 course sections.

Vice Chancellor Sherine Obare reported $77.4 million in research expenditures and highlighted UNCG's growing role in research-driven workforce development. Key initiatives include NC BioMISSION, supported by a $2 million BioMADE award; the Deloitte-sponsored Believers Smart Factory Institute; the DREaM Scholars Program, supported by approximately $860,000 from the DEVCOM Soldier Center; and ARISE, UNCG's AI Research Institute for Societal Impact and Engagement. Together, these efforts prepare students for emerging fields, strengthen external partnerships, and support regional economic growth.

The Committee also heard presentations from undergraduate students Nigel Yeboah and Lily Douglass, who discussed their research on potential infectious-disease treatments derived from plants, fungi, and bacteria. Both students earned highly competitive summer fellowships and credit UNCG and the Cech Lab, run by BOG Teaching Excellence Award Winner Dr. Nadja Cech, with supporting their future plans in medicine and research.

Finally, Dr. Tami Draves presented the 2025–26 Faculty Workload Report summarizing teaching, research and creative activity, and service for 809 full-time faculty. The Committee voted to accept the report and recommend it for the full Board's approval.

Athletics Committee

Athletics Director Brian Mackin updated the Committee on the many achievements of Spring 2026 sports student athletes, including record high GPAs, winning the SoCon's Barrett-Bonner award for having over 80% of our student athletes named to the league's academic honor roll, and standout performances on the fields of play. Mackin also reported that student athletes completed 1,568 community engagement hours in the last fiscal year.

The Committee then heard from new Men's Basketball Head Coach Jerod Haase, who joined UNCG in March, bringing more than 25 years of very successful D1 coaching experience, including Stanford, Alabama-Birmingham, North Carolina, and Kansas, where he played for Roy Williams.

Coach Haase discussed his approach to putting his team and coaching staff together and his emphasis on building a team that wants to work together to achieve long-term success, which is challenging in the current landscape. He also expressed interest in capitalizing on UNCG's newly renovated Bodford Arena for dynamic on-campus game experiences for students and fans.

Coach Haase and AD Mackin then discussed innovative ways to expand UNCG's fundraising reach with the goal of enhancing revenue share funds, noting that strategic approaches to revenue share and careful budgeting and allocation can drive recruitment and retention, support financial sustainability, and bolster competitive depth.

The Committee then convened in closed session to consider head coach contracts, which were approved following return to open session and recommended for approval by the full Board of Trustees.

Action Items

BOT – 1 Consent Agenda

1.1 Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2026

1.2 Finance and Administration Committee Recommendation – North and South Spencer Residence Halls HVAC Replacement – Approval to Move Forward for Full Authorization with the Board of Governors (FAC – 1)

1.3 Academic Affairs Committee Recommendation – Faculty Workload Report (AAC – 4)

Chair Hoyle reviewed the items on the consent agenda; all were included in the trustees' pre-meeting materials. There being no questions or requests to discuss any of the items individually,

Hoyle invited a motion to approve. Trustee Grant made the motion, which was seconded by Vice Chair Bachmann. The motion carried unanimously.

BOT – 2 Enrollment Growth through Pipeline Diversification

Joel Lee, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, reviewed the university's recent enrollment momentum, reporting key enrollment trends. The university has seen significant enrollment and credit hour growth; total enrollment is 19,078 and student credit hours are up to 235,835 in 2026, which is a 9.3% increase since 2023. First-year enrollment reached 2,711, its highest level since 2019, and at 2,550, transfer enrollment is up 27.5% since 2022. Additionally, graduate enrollment has reached an all-time high of 3,874, up 7.7% since 2024. Retention rates have improved across recent first-time-in-college cohorts, which is a critical driver of a larger continuing-student base and a potential "cohort surplus."

Lee outlined key growth strategies focused on first-time students, transfer students, and graduate programs. He noted that enrollment growth is uneven across graduate and undergraduate programs, with more than half showing enrollment losses in both categories. Improved enrollment and retention have also created a larger continuing-student base and a cohort surplus, which affects advising, staffing, class schedules, housing, scholarships, and budgets.

Looking ahead, Lee reported that higher education in North Carolina must navigate an anticipated drop in high school graduates, citing a projected 2% decline from 2026 to 2031, alongside 23% growth in statewide community college enrollment since 2020. Challenges with college readiness must also be confronted while capitalizing on community college growth and stronger transfer pathways. UNCG's next steps include strategic enrollment planning, expanded direct admissions and workforce programs, improved credit articulation, financial aid support, and enhanced degree planning.

Transition to Closed Session

Before transitioning to closed session, Chair Hoyle reminded members that closed session discussion would be limited to agenda items BOT – 3, 4, and 5, and that votes would not be taken until the board reconvened in open session. He advised members of the public viewing online that the livestream would remain active and resume after return to open session.

Motion to Enter Closed Session

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute Section 143-318.11(a)(2), (5) and (6), Chair Hoyle moved that the Board convene in closed session to prevent the premature disclosure of an honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award; establish the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract; and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment or conditions of initial employment of an individual employee or prospective employee.

Trustee Coleman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Closed Session began at 11:40 am.

General Account of Closed Session Discussion

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Chancellor Frank Gilliam; Dr. Alan Boyette, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor; John Loonan, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Jerry Blakemore, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel; Beth Fischer, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement (BOT – 3); Brian Mackin, Director of Athletics (BOT – 4); Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Associate Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Discussion Items

BOT – 3 Nomination for Distinguished Service Award

University Advancement Committee Chair Margaret Benjamin presented a nomination for the Charles Duncan McIver Medal, which honors exceptional contributions to public service, philanthropy, community leadership, or civic engagement in North Carolina or beyond.

BOT – 4 Head Coach Contracts

As recommended by the Athletics Committee, Athletics Director Brian Mackin presented six head coach contract extensions.

BOT – 5 Personnel Report

Chair Hoyle invited questions or discussion regarding a personnel report trustees received in advance of the meeting. There were no questions or comments.

Following discussion, Chair Hoyle invited a motion to return to open session. Trustee Grant made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Phipps. The motion carried unanimously.

The closed session concluded at 11:54 am.

OPEN SESSION

Following return to open session, Chair Hoyle confirmed that closed session discussion was limited to agenda items BOT – 3, 4, and 5.

BOT – 3 Nomination for Distinguished Service Award

Chair Hoyle invited a motion to approve the McIver Medal nomination presented in agenda item BOT – 3. Trustee Benjamin made the motion, which was seconded by Vice Chair Bachmann. The motion carried unanimously.

BOT – 4 Head Coach Contracts

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

BOT – 5 Personnel Report

Chair Hoyle invited a motion to approve the personnel report presented in agenda item BOT – 5. Trustee Grant made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees