

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE**

Friday, November 7, 2014

Executive Conference Room

Spangler Center, Chapel Hill, NC

### **Minutes**

Attendees via teleconference: Chairman MacNeill (presiding), Mr. Harrelson, Mr. Hinton, Mr. Lail, Mr. Powers, Mr. Rippey, and Chancellor Brady. Others present : Chairman Fennebresque, Ann Lemmon, Kevin FitzGerald, Tom Shanahan, and Sue Carpenter

Visitor: John Kinston, *Winston-Salem Journal*

#### **1. Call to order**

Mrs. MacNeill called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the performance of Mr. Victor Johnson in his capacity as a member of the Winston-Salem State University Board of Trustees (WSSU).

#### **2. Roll Call**

Secretary Lemmon called the roll. The participants are noted above. There was a quorum.

#### **3. Discussion of the matter**

Mrs. MacNeill provided background information regarding Mr. Johnson's service on the Board of Trustees at Winston-Salem State University. He was appointed to the Board in 2009 and reappointed in 2013. Earlier this year, a search was launched at WSSU to identify and recommend candidates for the position of chancellor to replace Chancellor Reaves, who was retiring at the end of the year. Mr. Johnson was appointed to serve on the Chancellor's Search Committee.

Mrs. MacNeill explained that the members of the Search Committee signed confidentiality agreements acknowledging that the identity of applicants would remain confidential. In August, the Search Committee had narrowed its search to three finalists. Mr. Johnson appeared to be upset with aspects of the search process and threatened to leak confidential information about it to his [superintendent] or press. The names of the three finalists were published in a local newspaper. Mr. Johnson was blamed for the alleged leaks.

Members of the Committee on University Governance became concerned with reports of the disclosure of confidential information arising out of the WSSU chancellor search. Debra Miller, Chair of WSSU Board of Trustees and Chair of the Chancellor Search Committee sent a letter to Mrs. MacNeill citing concerns about the search process. Mrs. MacNeill and Chairman Fennebresque reached out to Mr. Johnson via phone and letter. On November 3, Mrs. MacNeill met with Mr. Johnson to discuss certain breaches of confidentiality that he violated during the search process and asked for his resignation. Mr. Johnson refused to resign.

Mr. Lail made a motion that based on the facts that have been reported, and Mr. Johnson's response, to move that the Committee on University Governance recommend to the full Board of Governors that Mr. Johnson be removed from his position as a trustee at Winston-Salem State University, effective upon action of the full Board. Mr. Hinton seconded the motion and it carried.

Chairman Fennebresque commented that this is a difficult situation, but the correct decision was made and he thanked Mrs. MacNeill for all her good work in dealing with this situation. There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.