



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
Committee on Strategic Initiatives

November 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference and PBS North Carolina Live Stream  
Hunt Library, Duke Energy Hall C  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**AGENDA**

- A-1. Approval of the Minutes of July 21, 2021.....Carolyn Coward
- A-2. Project Kitty Hawk Information Session .....Andrew Kelly, Terah Crews, Wil Zemp
- A-3. Adjourn



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## DRAFT MINUTES

July 21, 2021

Via Videoconference and PBS North Carolina Live Stream  
University of North Carolina System Office  
Center for School Leadership Development, Board Room  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

This meeting of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives was presided over by Chair Carolyn Coward. The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were also present in person or by phone: J. Alex Mitchell, Lee Roberts, Anna Spangler Nelson, Ray Palma, and David Powers.

The following committee members were absent: Michael Williford.

Chancellors participating were Kelli Brown and Brian Cole

Guest presenters present were Dr. Michael Putman and Dr. Kellee Watkins.

Staff members present included Dr. Andrew Kelly and others from the UNC System Office.

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### 1. Call to Order and Approval of OPEN Session Minutes (Item A-1)

The chair called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m., and called for a motion to approve the open session minutes of May 26, 2021.

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on Strategic Initiatives approve the open session minutes of May 26, 2021 as distributed.

**Motion:** J. Alex Mitchell

**Motion carried**

### 2. Update on Teach Preparation in Early Literacy

President Hans thanked the committee for their work on the issue and discussed the importance of Teacher Preparation in Early Literacy. President Hans also thanked the CD Spangler Foundation and the Goodnight Foundation for their generous gifts to help the UNC System Literacy Initiative. President Hans thanked Governor Nelson and Dr. Goodnight for their leadership and support.

The committee heard a presentation by Dr. Laura Bilbro-Berry, Dr. Kellee Watkins, and Dr. Michael

Putman on Teacher Preparation in Early Literacy. The presentation served as an update to the committee on the Board of Governor's Resolution on Teacher Preparation from April 17, 2020.

There being no further business and without objection, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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**AGENDA ITEM**

A-2. Information Session on Project Kitty Hawk.....Andrew Kelly  
Terah Crews  
Wil Zemp

**Situation:** The committee will hear a presentation from Dr. Andrew Kelly, Dr. Wil Zemp, and Terah Crews about a plan to accelerate the UNC System’s ability to reach and serve adult learners.

**Background:** In the winter and spring of 2021, the committee hosted a number of discussions about innovation in higher education, changing demographics, and opportunities to create programs that are more accessible for working adults. The University of North Carolina System is heavily reliant on traditional-age students—those between the ages of 18-24—but data indicate that the size of this demographic will slow nationally and in North Carolina over the next decade. In response, colleges, universities, and other organizations have developed programs designed to serve adults without a college degree, many of whom are juggling work and family responsibilities. These programs are often offered through close partnership with large employers that help to cover the cost of further education for their employees.

Developing new pathways to postsecondary degree or credential represents an opportunity for traditional higher education institutions to adapt to a changing market, but such efforts often require significant changes to business models, academic programming and calendars, and student supports. In 2019, about 60,000 North Carolinians enrolled online with out-of-state universities, an indication of the demand for flexible, affordable postsecondary options.

In response, the UNC System Office has developed a plan (“Project Kitty Hawk”) to create an affiliated education technology firm that will enable existing System universities to build and launch programs designed to attract and serve adult learners.

**Assessment:** In this session, the committee will hear a presentation on the adult learner initiative, Project Kitty Hawk.

**Action:** This item is for discussion only.