

## DRAFT MINUTES

April 10, 2025

Via Videoconference and PBS North Carolina Livestream

University of North Carolina System Office

223 S. West St., Board Room

Raleigh, North Carolina

### Call to Order

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors met on April 10, 2025, at the UNC System Office, Raleigh, North Carolina. Chair Wendy Murphy called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. She welcomed everyone and thanked Rep. David Willis for joining. She also recognized the Marian Drane Graham Scholars who were in attendance. They included Ms. Ana Krstanovic from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Mr. Jeremy Hunt from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and Ms. Tayler Scott from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

### Invocation

Chair Murphy called on Ms. Karina Rodriguez from Western Carolina University to give the invocation. Ms. Rodriguez is a junior at WCU and has been elected as the student body vice president for the upcoming year. Chair Murphy called upon Secretary Burris-Floyd to call the roll.

### Roll Call

Secretary Burris-Floyd called the roll. The following members were present:

Dr. Lee Barnes	Mark Holton
Kellie Hunt Blue	Terry Hutchens
Kirk J. Bradley	J. Alex Mitchell
Cameron Brown	Wendy Floyd Murphy
Pearl Burris-Floyd	Sonja Phillips Nichols
C. Philip Byers	Art Pope
Swadesh Chatterjee	Randy Ramsey
Carolyn Coward	Temple Sloan
Gene Davis	Woody White
Joel Ford	Mike Williford
John Fraley	
Kathryn Crisp Greeley	

The following members were absent:

Harry Brown  
Jimmy D. Clark  
Reginald Ronald Holley

## **State Ethics Act**

Chair Murphy stated that under the State Ethics Act, members have a duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts and asked if anyone had a potential conflict. There were none.

## **Chair's Report**

Chair Murphy's report contained stories about successful students who took less-traditional routes of obtaining degrees from the UNC System. These individuals included Mr. Martin Sanchez from Fayetteville State University, siblings Mr. Brandon and Ms. Madison Swallow from UNCP, and Ms. Nedra Hobbs from North Carolina Central University. Chair Murphy touched on the goal of seeing two million North Carolinians between the ages of 25 and 44 credentialed with a college degree by 2030. There is progress being made toward that goal, due to the hard work of the UNC System to improve student access and student success of both "traditional" and "nontraditional" students, such as the ones she mentioned in her report. She reminded all to celebrate our graduates this commencement season. She then called on President Peter Hans for his report.

## **President's Report**

President Hans said there are two crucial steps for institutions to earn and maintain public trust. These included staying focused on our core mission and executing well on that educational mission. He said we are seeing improvements on the things that matter most to our students and our state. He thinks there is work to be done when it comes to the day-to-day execution of our institutions in delivering the services they promise and efficiently achieving the goals set out. President Hans mentioned the often heard, common complaint about the difficulty in getting things done. He said it is time to rethink and reinvigorate the way we do business. He said he will be directing a reduction in administrative costs at those institutions where spending growth is outpacing state salary adjustments and increases or declines in student credit hours. He is also asking his team and the chancellors to look at federal, state, and System rules that unduly burden the university without corresponding benefits to seek some relief. His intention is that the money saved through administrative reductions will be redirected toward the performance goals the Board has identified. For President Hans' complete report, please see APPENDIX A.

## **Consent Agenda Items**

Chair Murphy referred to the consent agenda items listed as Item 5 on the day's agenda. Chair Murphy asked if there were any items that members of the Board would like to have removed for discussion. There were none. Chair Murphy entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda items. The motion was properly seconded, and the motion passed.

### Minutes

- a. Minutes (Open) of February 27 and March 18, 2025

### Committee on Budget and Finance

- b. Authorization of Special Tuition Rates for 2025-26 — University of North Carolina at Greensboro APPENDIX B
- c. Sale of Special Obligation Bonds — East Carolina University APPENDIX C
- d. Sale of Special Obligation Bonds — Fayetteville State University APPENDIX D
- e. Sale of Special Obligation Bonds — Western Carolina University APPENDIX E
- f. Capital Improvement Projects APPENDIX F
- g. Disposition of Property by Demolition — NC State University APPENDIX G
- h. Acquisition of Property by Lease — Appalachian State University APPENDIX H
- i. Additional 2024-25 State Capital and Infrastructure Fund Repairs and Renovations Allocations APPENDIX I

Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

j. UNC System Biennial Program Productivity Review

APPENDIX J

Committee on University Governance

k. Department of Defense Security Clearance Resolution

APPENDIX K

**Report of the Association of Student Governments**

Chair Murphy invited Mr. Brown to report on the past year of service as the student member of the Board. Mr. Brown spoke of the many projects he had the privilege to work on during the year and highlighted many of his successful relationships and partnerships with Board members, chancellors, System staff, and other students. He introduced the Mr. Javier Limon, the next president of the UNC Association of Student Governments (ASG) and student member of the Board, also in attendance. He closed his remarks by mentioning the success stories of the executive team at ASG, providing \$75,000 in relief to campuses affected by Hurricane Helene, introducing constitutional amendments to streamline the organization, and crafting a strategic plan to improve advocacy efforts. Chair Murphy thanked him for his work, saying it was an honor to have him as a part of the Board.

Chair Murphy then called on Mr. Bradley for the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance.

**Report of the Committee on Budget and Finance**

Mr. Bradley, chair of the committee, stated that the committee received presentations on the 2023-24 UNC Consolidated Financial Report and FY 2023 Facilities Inventory and Space Utilization Report from Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Haygood. While our System ended FY24 financially strong, the committee discussed the need to prepare for tighter financial conditions, including improving space utilization. Next, the committee reviewed and authorized App State's acquisition of property by lease for the Mountaineer Ridge Apartments, a new student housing complex that will be built at Mountaineer Ridge Drive, Boone, North Carolina. Finally, Vice President of Capital Planning Katherine Lynn, presented the allocation of the remaining \$175.25 millions of 2024-25 UNC SCIF R&R funds as indicated in the materials, which the committee approved.

During its virtual meeting on Monday, April 7, 2025, the committee reviewed and approved seven transactional items that were also included on the consent agenda that the Board approved:

- Authorization of 2025-26 special tuition rates for UNC Greensboro,
- Authorization for the sale of special obligations bonds for ECU, FSU, and WCU,
- Authorization of three new capital projects at two institutions and five increased or changed authorizations at four institutions; and
- Authorization for NC State to demolish the Council Building.

Chair Murphy called on Mr. Hutchens for his report from the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs.

**Report of the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs**

Mr. Hutchens, chair of the committee, stated that the committee began with an update from Dr. David English, senior vice president and chief academic officer, on academic affairs across the 17 UNC System institutions including a review of the Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) Programs Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. Next, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's comprehensive admissions process, which includes consideration of academic performance, character traits, extracurricular activities, personal statements, and recommendations was detailed by Chancellor Lee Roberts. The chancellor stressed that the increasing demand and strength of the applicant pool is a vital asset to the state of North Carolina and a testament to the longstanding state investment in the university. Dr. Bethany Meighen, vice president of academic and student affairs, and Dr. Shun Robertson, senior vice president of strategy and policy, provided updates on NC College Connect, which is expanding access and making it easier for qualified students to receive

admission offers to participating universities and colleges. In the next phase, NC College Connect will expand to include additional institutions and will continue the goal of keeping qualified students in North Carolina.

Mr. Daniel Harrison, vice president of academic and regulatory affairs, then presented the biennial program productivity review. Based on revised requirements, the report now incorporates analysis of student demand, credentials produced, and student return on investment. The report was approved by the committee and submitted to the Board through the consent agenda. Last, Ms. Hallie Knuffman, vice president of academic initiatives, presented background and an overview of the peer study and peer lists, which are being updated this year for each of the 16 constituent universities using a collaborative, data-driven process. The peer lists provide a framework for benchmarking and comparing outcomes across similar universities. Chair Murphy thanked Mr. Hutchens and called on Mrs. Coward for her report.

#### **Report of the Committee on University Personnel**

Mrs. Coward, chair of the committee, introduced Ms. Shayna Hill, staff assembly chair, and invited her to give the report on the UNC Staff Assembly.

Ms. Hill thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. She gave a brief overview of the makeup of the UNC Staff Assembly, thanking the Board for letting them serve in their capacity. She said the assembly has a strong sense of purpose and direction. There are many members of the assembly that are worried about cuts to research, financial aid, staffing levels, and the rising cost of everything. She said the emotional burden is heavy at this time. She said that staff members believe in their work and are holding each other up, as that is what servant leadership is all about. She pointed to the handouts regarding the upcoming Chancellor's Cup golf tournament, being held at WCU on September 29, 2025, which supports staff scholarships for professional development. She asked the Board members to please consider donating, registering a team, or becoming a sponsor.

Chair Murphy appreciated her remarks and the work of the staff at all the institutions. She called on Mr. Mitchell for the report of the Committee on University Governance.

#### **Report of the Committee on University Governance**

Mr. Mitchell, chair of the committee, reported that the committee voted to approve the appointment of Ms. Katheryn Burchett to the PBS NC Board of Trustees. See APPENDIX L.

**Motion:** Resolved, that on behalf of the Committee on University Governance, I move that the Board of Governors approve the partial-term appointment of Katheryn Burchett to the PBS North Carolina Board of Trustees for a term ending June 30, 2028.

**Motion:** Mr. Mitchell

**Motion carried**

Mr. Mitchell stated every two years, one-half of the Board of Governors-elected boards of trustee positions require either new elections or reelection. At today's meeting, the committee has the following appointments to the boards of trustees before the Board: Elizabeth City State University, N.C. A&T State University, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, NC State University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Western Carolina University and Winston-Salem State University. The list of individuals, and brief bios for each, are included in the Board's materials. (See APPENDIX M and N). Mr. Mitchell stated the votes will be for the slate of nominees as a whole group and not on an individual nominee basis or by individual institutions. He asked if any member of the Board objected to this block voting approach and wished to vote on a person or institution separately to please indicate so. Hearing none, he proceeded with the motion.

**Motion:** Resolved, that on behalf of the Committee on University Governance, I move that the Board of Governors appoint the slate of individuals previously mentioned and included in your Board materials.

**Motion:** Mr. Mitchell

**Motion carried**

Mr. Mitchell stated at the May meeting the committee will review and vote on appointments for Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina Central University, University of North Carolina Asheville, UNC-Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and University of North Carolina Wilmington. The committee also voted to approve a Department of Defense security clearance resolution that temporarily exempts Chancellor-Elect Kevin D. Howell of NC State from requiring an individual security clearance until the U.S. Department of Defense grants his clearance, and temporarily appoints Dr. Alyson G. Wilson, the interim vice chancellor for Research and Innovation, as a cleared senior management official for NC State University to maintain compliance with Defense Department requirements. This resolution was approved on today's consent agenda.

Chair Murphy thanked Mr. Mitchell. She then called on Dr. Barnes for his report of the Committee on Military and Public Affairs.

#### **Report of the Committee on Military and Public Affairs**

Dr. Barnes, vice chair of the committee, reported that the committee received updates from military affairs staff on the UNC System's efforts to support our military service members and their families across our institutions and our state. Mrs. Mary Varghese, vice president for strategic initiatives, updated the committee on progress toward two goals in the UNC System's strategic plan: one focused on increasing military enrollments and a second aimed at expanding military partnerships. Ms. Kathie Sidner, director of workforce and partnerships, presented a summary of a congressionally funded program that supports UNC System research collaborations with active-duty Army units in North Carolina. Through the Army Pathfinder program, five UNC System institutions are participating in applied research with soldiers at Fort Bragg and other locations in the state. To date, this program has brought in \$15 million to our UNC System institutions and an additional \$6 million to other entities across our state. Ms. Sidner also provided an update on the Board's recently approved legislative request to allow UNC System institutions to provide discounts to military learners using tuition assistance benefits. Mr. Bradley Wrenn, program manager for military student success, gave an update on the UNC System Military Equivalency System (MES). MES was launched publicly in March 2024, with 5,000 "equivalencies" that match military courses and occupations with UNC System courses. He also shared a few examples of the great work our institutions are doing to serve military affiliated students, including providing mental health and career transition support. Chair Murphy thanked him for this report, stating there is a lot of good working being done on these efforts. She then called on Mr. Ford for his report.

#### **Report of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives**

Mr. Ford, chair of the committee, said the committee met to discuss the accelerating time- to-degree portion of the enrollment management pipeline. Dr. Robertson, senior vice president of strategy and policy, provided an overview of data, policies, and strategies implemented across the UNC System to address time-to-degree. Over the last 10 years, the UNC System has made strides to reduce time-to-degree for our first-time, full-time students from about 4.5 years to a degree to just over a little over four years. In addition to the gains in time-to-degree for our first-time, full-time students, the UNC System has seen similar gains for transfer students, going from about three years for transfer students to complete a degree to now under three years.

The committee also heard directly from two chancellors on their campus-specific strategies to accelerate time-to-degree. Chancellor Frank Gilliam of UNC Greensboro gave an overview of their elective credit realignment initiative focused on reducing "empty calorie" elective credits that were being awarded to transfer students. The

committee also heard about UNCG's stop-out strategy initiative aimed at reengaging stop-out students through the ReUp partnership with Project Kitty Hawk. They also heard about the Spartan Finish Line micro-grant initiative to help financially strapped students on the cusp of reaching their degree with micro-grants and UNCG's credit efficiency effort designed to address post-pandemic credit losses.

Chancellor Aswani Voley of UNC Wilmington discussed the integrated approach they are taking for academic achievement, engagement, student well-being, and career preparedness to keep students on track and on time to a degree. This included UNC Wilmington's partnerships with community colleges and accelerated pathway options in degree programs such as social work, oceanography, and coastal engineering. The committee remains hopeful that our institutions are continuing to serve as a launchpad to opportunity for our students and not a bottleneck.

### **Recognition of O. Temple Sloan III**

Chair Murphy announced Governor Temple Sloan had served on the Board of Governors for the last 10 years and submitted his resignation effective April 11, 2025. She noted his steady leadership, being a wonderful listener and true friend to all. She thanked him for his time and service to the Board, UNC System and state of North Carolina. She then presented him with a resolution in his honor, read by Mr. Byers, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Williford, Secretary Burris-Floyd, and herself. See APPENDIX O.

**Motion:** Resolved, that the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina extends its deepest appreciation and gratitude to O. Temple Sloan III for his dedicated, sound leadership, and loyal service to the University of North Carolina and the State of North Carolina and accepts this resolution honoring him.

**Motion:** Mrs. Murphy

**Motion carried**

Mr. Ramsey indicated this Board meeting would be the last for outgoing NC State University Chancellor Randy Woodson. He thanked him for his 15 years of steadfast service and stated that it has been an honor to serve with him.

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Chair Murphy called on Secretary Burris-Floyd for a motion to go into closed session. See APPENDIX P.

**Motion:** Resolved, that the Board go into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statutes §143-748 and §143-318.11(a)(1), (3), and (6), for the purposes stated in the written motion that was included in the meeting materials, which have been publicly noticed. The motion was properly seconded.

**Motion:** Pearl Burris-Floyd

**Motion carried**

The Board went into closed session at 11:10 a.m. and returned to open session at 11:18 a.m.

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Chair Murphy called on Mrs. Coward for her report from the Committee on University Personnel.

**Committee on University Personnel**

Mrs. Coward, chair of the committee, said the committee reviewed a report from Dr. David English, senior vice president for academic affairs, on faculty recruitment and retention fund utilization over the last year. Thanks to the generous support of the state legislature, we have been able to approve 80 requests for the recruitment and retention of faculty members across the UNC System. The full report is available in BoardEffect. She also reported Mr. Michael Vollmer, chief operating officer, updated the committee on recent human resources changes across the System.

Mr. Davis reported to the Board that a former Board of Governors chair (1988-90), Mr. Robert L. Jones, recently passed away.

There being no further business and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The next meeting of the Board of Governors is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2025, at the UNC System Office in Raleigh, North Carolina.

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Pearl Burris-Floyd, *Secretary*

## APPENDICES

The Appendices are part of the official record of the meeting and are posted on the UNC System website at:

<http://www.northcarolina.edu/apps/bog/index.php>

Appendix A	President Hans' Report
Appendix B	Authorization of Special Tuition Rates for 2025-26 – University of North Carolina at Greensboro
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