

April 15, 2026, at 1:15 p.m.  
Via Videoconference and PBS North Carolina Livestream  
Morganton Campus of North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics  
Joiner Hall, Third Floor  
Morganton, North Carolina

## AGENDA

### OPEN SESSION

- A-1. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of January 28, 2026 ..... Alex Mitchell
- A-2. North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics  
Board of Trustees Appointment ..... Alex Mitchell
- A-3. ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees Appointment ..... Alex Mitchell

### CLOSED SESSION

- A-4. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of January 28, 2026 ..... Alex Mitchell
- A-5. Legal Affairs Report ..... Andrew Tripp

### OPEN SESSION

- A-6. Adjourn

## Closed Session Motion

### Motion to go into closed session to:

- Prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential under Article 7 of Chapter 126 of the North Carolina General Statutes or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.
- Consult with our attorney to protect attorney-client privilege:
  - To consider and give instructions concerning a potential or actual claim, administrative procedure, or judicial action for the following cases:
    - *Mack Wilder v. University of North Carolina School of the Arts*
    - *H.L. v. Western Carolina University*

**Pursuant to:** G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), and (3).

## DRAFT MINUTES

January 28, 2026, at 11:45 a.m.  
Via Videoconference and PBS North Carolina Livestream  
UNC System Office  
223 S. West St. Room 1809  
Raleigh, NC 27603

This meeting of the Committee on University Governance was presided over by Chair Alex Mitchell. The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were present in person or by phone: Randall C. Ramsey, Pearl Burris-Floyd, Joel D. Ford, C. Philip Byers, and Michael Williford.

Also participating was Chancellor Kelli Brown, Chancellor Brian Cole, and Chancellor Todd Roberts.

Staff members present included Andrew Tripp, Meredith McCullen, and others from the UNC System Office.

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### 1. Call to Order and Approval of Open Session Minutes of November 19, 2025 (Item A-1)

The chair called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2026. The open session minutes from the November 19, 2025, meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

### 2. ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees Appointments (Item A-2)

Chair Mitchell presented two nominees for appointments to the ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees. First, the chair presented Dr. Michael Waldrum to be reappointed to a five-year term to fill Seat 2 on the Board, by virtue of his service as dean of the ECU Brody School of Medicine. Upon presentation of the nominee, Chair Mitchell asked for a motion of approval.

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on University Governance approve the nomination of Dr. Michael Waldrum to the ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees to fill an additional five-year term starting on March 1, 2026, and ending February 28, 2031.

**Motion: Alex Mitchell**  
**Motion carried**

Chair Mitchell then presented the second nominee to the ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees, Vern Davenport, to be reappointed to a five-year term to fill Seat 18 on the Board.

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on University Governance approve the nomination of Vern Davenport to the ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees to fill an additional five-year term starting on March 1, 2026, and ending February 28, 2031.

**Motion: Alex Mitchell**

**Motion carried**

### **3. Project Kitty Hawk Board of Directors Appointments (Item A-3)**

Next, Chair Mitchell presented four nominees for reappointment to the Project Kitty Hawk Board of Directors: Susan Cates, John Comly, Chancellor Karrie Dixon, and Chancellor Philip Rogers. Members of the Board are appointed based on the recommendation of the president and according to categories specified by the enabling legislation. Upon presentation of the nominees, Chair Mitchell asked for a motion of approval.

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on University Governance approve the nomination of Susan Cates, John Comly, Chancellor Karrie Dixon, and Chancellor Philip Rogers to the Project Kitty Hawk Board of Directors, each to serve an additional two-year term starting on February 1, 2026, and ending January 31, 2028.

**Motion: Alex Mitchell**

**Motion carried**

### **4. Proposed Amendments to Section VI of *The Code, Academic Freedom and Tenure* (Item A-4)**

Chair Mitchell then called on Andrew Tripp, senior vice president for legal affairs and chief general counsel, to provide an overview of the review process and the proposed amendments to Section VI of *The Code, Academic Freedom and Tenure*. Mr. Tripp outlined the collaborative process involving Mr. Wade Maki, chair of the Faculty Assembly, and other faculty across the System to provide a consensus definition for academic freedom. The proposed changes were reviewed by chancellors, provosts, general counsels, and then circulated to institutions. Mr. Tripp noted that the 15-month process provided a great example of shared governance and reminded the committee that a change to *The Code* requires a two-thirds approval by the UNC System Board of Governors. Afterward, Chair Mitchell presented a motion of approval.

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on University Governance approve the proposed amendments to Section VI of *The Code, Academic Freedom and Tenure*.

**Motion: Alex Mitchell**

**Motion carried**

### **5. Closed Session**

**MOTION:** Resolved, that the Committee on University Governance go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential under Article 7 of Chapter 126 of the North Carolina General Statutes or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes; and to consult with our attorney to protect attorney-client privilege. This is pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), and (3).

**Motion: Michael Williford**

**Motion carried**

**THE MEETING MOVED INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 12:05 p.m.**  
(The complete minutes of the closed session are recorded separately.)

**THE MEETING RESUMED IN OPEN SESSION AT 12:14 p.m.**

There being no further business and without objection, the meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

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Michael Williford, Secretary

**AGENDA ITEM**

A-2. North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Board of Trustees Appointment ..... Alex Mitchell

- Situation:** The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Board of Trustees has a partial-term vacancy ending on June 30, 2027.
- Background:** Mr. Clark Jenkins was originally appointed to the NCSSM Board of Trustees for a term beginning July 1, 2023, but resigned his seat on October 30, 2025, after accepting a position with the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and in accordance with North Carolina General Statute provisions preventing simultaneous service on certain state boards by individuals employed by the state.
- Assessment:** Ms. Norma Houston is nominated to fill the partial-term vacancy beginning on April 16, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2027. Biographical information is included in the materials.
- Action:** This item requires a vote by the committee and a vote by the full Board of Governors.

**Norma Houston**

Norma Houston served as the chief of staff to University of North Carolina System President Peter Hans from August 2020 until her retirement in February 2025. In addition to being a member of President Hans' senior leadership team, Houston oversaw the operations of the President's Office and the Chief of Staff Division which included Communications, Secretary to the Board of Governors, Internal Audit, Health Affairs, and Safety and Enterprise Risk Management.

Before joining the UNC System Office, Houston served from 2006 until 2025 as a lecturer in public law and government at the UNC School of Government, where she specialized in the fields of emergency management, public procurement and contracting, ethics and conflicts of interest, board procedures, and property disposal. She taught in the school's graduate program in public administration and was an adjunct faculty member at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law, where she continues to guest-lecture. Houston was named the Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Term Lecturer for Teaching Excellence for 2015-17.

Prior to her appointment to the School of Government faculty, Houston served as chief of staff and general counsel to State Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight, worked at UNC General Administration under UNC System President Erskine Bowles, and served as Dare County attorney, assistant attorney general in the NC Department of Justice, and staff attorney with NC Prisoners Legal Services. She is a member of the North Carolina State Bar.

Houston earned a BS in criminal justice and psychology (1986) and a J.D. (1989) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She resides with her family in Manteo, North Carolina, and currently works in an advisory capacity with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, assisting counties in western North Carolina with their ongoing recovery from Tropical Storm Helene.

**AGENDA ITEM**

A-3. ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees Appointments ..... Alex Mitchell

**Situation:** There is a seat open for appointment on the ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees. Ms. Deborah Davis occupied Seat 11 on the board, and her term expired on February 28, 2025.

**Background:** The University of North Carolina Board of Governors is responsible for appointing nine of the 20 total seats on the ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees.

**Assessment:** The nominating committee for the ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees met and voted to appoint Mr. W. Kel Normann to Seat 11 for an initial five-year term beginning on April 16, 2026, and ending on February 28, 2030. Biographical information is included in your materials.

**Action:** This item requires a vote by the committee and a vote by the full Board of Governors.

**W. Kel Normann**

W. Kel Normann (Kel Normann) has more than 40 years of experience in the financial services industry and is a principal for CAPTRUST Advisors. He and his team specialize in wealth management advisory services for high-net-worth families, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations. In addition to being Series 7, 8, 63, and 65 registered, Normann holds life, accident, and health insurance licenses, qualifying him to help clients with their wealth management and estate planning strategies. Before joining CAPTRUST in October 2023, Normann founded and was president and owner of The Normann Financial Group and grew the wealth practice to assets of \$1.5 billion upon joining CAPTRUST. Prior to 2015, Normann spent 30 years with Wells Fargo Advisors and predecessor firms dating back to Interstate Securities, where he began his career.

Normann is a 1985 graduate of East Carolina University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing. In 2011, he was honored as recipient of the East Carolina University Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award, one of the most prestigious offered by the university, and is a past member of the ECU Board of Trustees, where he served as secretary and chair of the Audit Committee. He also served 22 years on the East Carolina University Foundation Board and as the chair of the investment committee for 20 years while on the board. Along with his service to boards of higher education, Normann serves on the board of directors for the Lee County Education Foundation, where he was one of the founding members and is a past president. He was also one of the founding board members for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Lee County, where he served for 15 years and is a past president.