



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM**

LEE BARNES

University of North Carolina Board of Governors
223 S. West Street, Suite 1800
Raleigh, NC 27603

February 25, 2026

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Wendy F. Murphy, Chair
UNC Board of Governors

Kirk Bradley, Chair
UNC Committee on Budget & Finance

Meredith McCullen, University Secretary
University of North Carolina

Re: Recusal Under Applicable UNC Policy

Dear Chair Murphy, Governor Bradley, and Secretary McCullen:

I write to note for your awareness and for the records of the Committee on Budget & Finance and the UNC Board of Governors that I have recused myself from any consideration of matters related to the contents of Item A7 on the Board's Thursday, February 26 Consent Agenda. I have reached this conclusion in consultation with our General Counsel. While neither he nor I believe recusal is clearly required under applicable University policy, I have chosen to err on the side of caution in deciding to recuse.

I am happy to discuss this with you but do not plan to mention my recusal during the meetings so as to avoid disrupting the flow of the meeting. I expect the vote of the consent agenda on Thursday will occur seamlessly. However, to ensure transparency regarding my recusal, I ask that the University Secretary place a copy of this letter in the minutes of both the Committee on Budget & Finance and the UNC Board of Governors.

Sincerely,

Lee Barnes, Member
UNC Board of Governors