

MINUTES

April 16, 2026

Morganton Campus of North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

901 Burkemont Avenue, The Barn

Morganton, North Carolina

Via Videoconference and PBS North Carolina Livestream

Call to Order

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors met on April 16, 2026, at the Morganton Campus of North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, Morganton, North Carolina. Chair Wendy Murphy called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. She recognized NCSSM Chancellor Todd Roberts and his staff for hosting the first away meeting of the UNC Board of Governors after a multi-year pause on offsite meetings, as well as UNC System Office staff for their coordination, remarking that the NCSSM team set a high bar for future meetings. She also welcomed special guests: Mr. Rushil Sachania, president-elect for the Association of Student Governments (ASG), Ms. Laura Baker Campbell from NCSSM, Ms. Sarah Gilmour, Ms. Sarah Humphries, Ms. Caroline McLean from the University of North Carolina Asheville, and Ms. Karen Bussey from Fayetteville State University.

Invocation

Chair Murphy called on Ms. Sonja Nichols to give the invocation.

Roll Call

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

Dr. Lee Barnes	Kathryn Crisp Greeley
Kellie Hunt Blue	Reginald Ronald Holley
Kirk J. Bradley	Mark Holton
Harry Brown	Terry Hutchens
Dr. Pearl Burris-Floyd	Javier Limon
C. Philip Byers	J. Alex Mitchell
Jimmy D. Clark	Wendy Floyd Murphy
Carolyn Coward	Randy Ramsey
Gene Davis	Woody White
Joel Ford	Michael Williford
John A. Fraley	

The following members were absent:

Swadesh Chatterjee
Sonja Phillips Nichols
Art Pope

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. Dr. Barnes recused himself in advance of the meeting (APPENDIX A).

North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Video Presentation

Chair Murphy called on Chancellor Todd Roberts to introduce a brief video presentation. Chancellor T. Roberts thanked his team and System Office staff for their good work in coordinating and hosting the April meeting of the Board of Governors. Then he introduced a video that highlighted the contributions of NCSSM graduate and missions specialist for NASA's Artemis II mission around the moon, Christina Koch.

Mr. Bradley took a moment to thank Chancellor T. Roberts for his good work at NCSSM. Chair Murphy then delivered her report.

Chair's Report

Chair Murphy began her report by formally acknowledging Chancellor T. Roberts, his leadership team, and the entire NCCSM community for their warm welcome and hospitality. She noted that it was good to be back on a campus and shared reflections drawn from the school's motto, "I Accept the Greater Challenge." She spoke of NCSSM's ability to meet the call for excellence and growth and build a culture of curiosity and resilience, that has led to its distinction as the top high school in the nation.

Next, Chair Murphy commented on the growth of North Carolina's economy and how the UNC System is meeting that need as a top producer of graduates in the state. She reminded the audience of the role that teacher preparedness plays in establishing an early foundation for learning in reading, writing, and mathematics to prepare students for lifelong success, especially as the state continues to see math scores at pre-pandemic levels. No matter the vocation, a solid math foundation builds confidence and can encourage students to pursue higher education, as evidenced by a 2020 survey of NCSSM graduates showing that 98 percent of its graduates earned bachelor's degrees, with 56 percent of those earning a STEM degree.

Finally, Chair Murphy spoke of the importance of developing and retaining talent in North Carolina, noting that 75 percent of NCSSM graduates attend a UNC System institution after graduating, which should be celebrated. She noted that while NCSSM is a one-of-a-kind institution, it provides a strong example of our capabilities when we focus on what matters most, which is equipping teachers and pursuing a firm commitment to foundational learning that builds critical thinking.

Chair Murphy called on President Peter Hans for his report.

President's Report

President Hans began by offering additional thanks to NCSSM for being gracious hosts and reflecting on 1980, when the idea of a public, residential high school for science in math was an ambitious response to North Carolina's transition from an economy heavily dependent on tobacco, textiles, and furniture to one more focused on sectors like technology, finance, and medicine. He described the institution as an "intellectual accelerator," that brings together the brightest students with an exceptional high school faculty managing world-class laboratories.

President Hans noted that due to NCSSM's thoughtful design, most of its graduates attend UNC System institutions and earn science, engineering and technology degrees at a rate over three times higher than the national average. Additionally, a 2020 study noted that more than 13 percent of graduates have helped start a new company, many of which are in North Carolina. Among the graduates of NCSSM, the president highlighted Christina Koch, who attended high school in Jacksonville before earning a place at NCSSM, and went on to graduate from North

Carolina State University with degrees in physics and electrical engineering. President Hans described her as having traveled to the moon and back on drive and talent nurtured by public institutions.

Finally, the president underscored the System’s focus on the future of North Carolina to meet workforce demands, highlighting the need for more teacher, engineers, and healthcare professionals, as outlined in the Workforce Alignment Report. He noted that while higher education has the reputation for being slow-moving, System institutions are responding and reinventing to meet the needs of the state and prepare the mind and character of future workers for responsible citizenry. In closing, President Hans acknowledged that even with past successes, there is still much work to be done, and “the NCSSM spirit of innovation here should be a guiding light as we tackle it.” For additional information from his remarks, please see APPENDIX B.

Consent Agenda Items

Chair Murphy referred to the consent agenda items listed as Item 6 on the day’s agenda and asked if any items should be 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. Approval of minutes (Open) of February 26, 2026

Committee on Budget and Finance

- b. FY 2025 University of North Carolina System Debt Capacity Study APPENDIX C
- c. Additional 2025-26 State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (SCIF) Repairs and Renovations (R&R) Allocations APPENDIX D
- d. Capital Improvement Projects APPENDIX E
- e. Revision to 2021-23 Engineering NC’s Future Capital Projects – NC State APPENDIX F

Report of the Association of Student Governments

Mr. Javier Limon, outgoing president of ASG and student member of the Board of Governors, gave his final report to the Board, noting how memorable the experience had been for him. He described his seat as “the best seat in the house,” a sentiment taken from a biography of Bill Friday, which was recommended to him by Dr. David English and President Hans at the beginning of his tenure. Mr. Limon explained that from his seat he has come to see and understand the full weight and scope of the Board’s decisions and how the Board must consider the future of higher education even through moments of immense pressure. Mr. Limon drew lessons from Mr. Friday’s handling of the federal pressures of his time, to not disregard partners in education, but to stay focused on the mission and the people we serve. He ended his remarks by thanking President Hans, Chair Murphy, members of the Board, chancellors, and staff who were a part of his journey, and expressed excitement for his next role working with the Johns Hopkins University Institute of Education Policy. Lastly, he acknowledged the incoming ASG president, Rushil Sachania, and reflected on the relationships that made him a better leader, stating that he would “spend every day moving forward trying to give back.” For additional information from his remarks, please see APPENDIX G.

Report of the Committee on Budget and Finance

Mr. Bradley, chair of the committee, said the committee reviewed and approved the FY 2025 UNC System Debt Capacity Study, which detailed each UNC System institution’s report and the allocation of the remaining 2025-26 State Capital and Infrastructure Funds (SCIF) totaling \$55 million. Next, the committee reviewed and approved two transactional items, the authorization of seven new capital projects at five institutions, six self-liquidating debt projects at five institutions, and 14 increased authorizations at six institutions; and authorization for revisions to the previously approved Engineering NC’s Future capital projects for NC State University. Mr. Bradley also noted that the committee’s additional materials included the full report of the FY 2025 UNC System Debt Capacity Study and the UNC Quarterly Capital Projects Report for April 1, 2026.

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

Mr. Hutchens stated that the committee began by recognizing Mr. Javier Limon for his service as ASG president and on committee, and by introducing the incoming president, Mr. Sachania, to the committee. Following the introduction, the committee received a presentation from the University of North Carolina Wilmington regarding the state of healthcare needs for southeastern North Carolina and the steps the university has taken and proposes to take addressing the issue, with the culmination of UNC Wilmington's efforts being a proposed stand-alone medical school awarding the Doctor of Medicine degree. He noted that the presentation was for information only, intended to introduce the proposal, outline the rationale for considering it, and provide context for the university's request.

Next the committee received an Academic Affairs update from Dr. English. In his reporting he gave updates on two initiatives from President Hans that the committee had previously heard about: the University's artificial intelligence efforts and its civil discourse initiatives. Then, Mr. Hutchens noted the report to the committee from Mrs. Katherine Martin on the Rural Residency Medical Education and Training Fund. This included a broader discussion of healthcare workforce needs in North Carolina and efforts designed to strengthen the rural physician pipeline by supporting residency training and rural clinical partnerships in high-need areas of the state.

Lastly, the committee received the inaugural UNC System Workforce Alignment Report presented by Mrs. Mary Varghese. Mr. Hutchens explained that the report is a response to the May 2024 Board revisions to Section 400.1 of the UNC Policy Manual, *Policy on Academic Program Planning*, which call for a review of how well the academic degree portfolio aligns with workforce needs. The presentation provided an overview of projected workforce demand in North Carolina, the supply of graduates at each level, and the UNC System's emerging model for better aligning academic programs with employer needs and real-world hiring conditions.

Chair Murphy called on Mrs. Coward for the Report of the Committee on University Personnel.

Report of the Committee on University Personnel

Mrs. Coward, chair of the committee, introduced Mr. Alan Porch, UNC Staff Assembly Chair, for his report.

Mr. Porch expressed pride in the fact that the Staff Assembly turns 20 years old this year and thanked the Board for recognizing the importance of staff issues and providing the platform for staff reports. He also detailed a recent meeting of the Staff Assembly at North Carolina Central University and acknowledged that the important staff issues have not changed much over the past five years. Cost of living increases, slow legislative salary growth, and rising healthcare costs are all a concern at a time when staff are worrying about whether they will be considered an "administrative burden." Despite the challenges, Mr. Porch expressed hope for salary increases, changes in healthcare, and stronger relationships that imbue confidence in the System. He closed his remarks by thanking Chris Chiron, Staff Assembly advisor.

Report of the Committee on University Governance

Mr. Mitchell stated the Committee on University Governance met and had two items to come before the Board for votes.

First, the committee voted on an appointment to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Board of Trustees. The appointment before this Board is for a partial term for Ms. Norma Houston, beginning on April 16, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027 (APPENDIX H).

Motion: Resolved, that on behalf of the Committee on University Governance, I move that the Board of Governors appoint Norma Houston to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Board of Trustees to fill a partial term starting on April 16, 2026, that ends on June 30, 2027.

Motion: Mr. Mitchell

Motion carried

Next, the committee voted on an appointment to the ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees. The appointment before the Board is for an initial five-year term for Mr. W. Kel Normann to Seat 11, beginning April 16, 2026, and ending February 28, 2030 (APPENDIX I).

Motion: Resolved, that on behalf of the Committee on University Governance, I move that the Board of Governors appoint W. Kel Normann to the ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees to fill an initial term starting on April 16, 2026, and that ends on February 28, 2030.

Motion: Mr. Mitchell

Motion carried

Chair Murphy called on Mr. Clark for the report from the Committee on External Affairs.

Report of the Committee on External Affairs

Mr. Clark, chair of the committee, stated the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Committee on External Affairs held a joint committee meeting to review and approve our State Budget and Legislative Priorities for the 2026 Short Session and the North Carolina General Assembly and the federal legislative priorities for the 119th Congress.

First the committee reviewed the 2026-27 Budget Priorities that focus on our critical enterprise needs and include enrollment funding, building reserves, UNC SCIF repairs and renovations funding, and continued funding for previously authorized SCIF named projects (APPENDIX J).

Motion: Resolved, that on behalf of the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Committee on External Affairs, I move that the Board of Governors approve the 2026-27 Budget Priorities.

Motion: Mr. Clark

Motion carried

Next the committee reviewed the 2026-27 Self-Liquidating Capital Improvement Projects. Five UNC System constituent institutions are requesting approval for debt authorization for six projects requiring approximately \$637 million total debt (APPENDIX K).

Motion: Resolved, that on behalf of the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Committee on External Affairs, I move that the Board of Governors approve the 2026-27 Self Liquidating Improvement Projects.

Motion: Mr. Clark

Motion carried

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

Secretary Burris-Floyd offered the following motion.

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

Motion: Pearl Burris-Floyd

Motion carried

The Board went into closed session at 11:00 a.m. and returned to open session at 11:10 a.m.

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

Report of the Committee on University Personnel

Mrs. Coward stated that the committee reviewed a report from Dr. English on Faculty Recruitment and Retention fund utilization over the last year. She stated that through the fund 80 requests for recruitment and retention of faculty members across the System were approved. Additionally, the committee voted to approve and present to the Board for approval at the next meeting revisions to Section 300.1.5 of the UNC Policy Manual, *Occupation of Official Residences of the Chancellors and the President*.

There being no further business and without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting of the Board of Governors is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026, at the UNC System Office in Raleigh, NC.

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	Recusal from vote-Dr. Barnes
Appendix B	President Hans' Report
Appendix C	FY 2025 University of North Carolina System Debt Capacity Study
Appendix D	Additional 2025-26 State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (SCIF) Repairs and Renovations (R&R) Allocations
Appendix E	Capital Improvement Projects
Appendix F	Revision to 2021-23 Engineering NC's Future Capital Projects — NC State
Appendix G	Javier Limon's Report
Appendix H	Appointment to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Board of Trustees
Appendix I	Appointment to the ECU Health Medical Center Board of Trustees
Appendix J	2026-27 Budget Priorities
Appendix K	2026-27 Self-Liquidating Improvement Projects
Appendix L	Full Board Closed Motion