DRAFT MINUTES

May 21, 2026
University of North Carolina System Office
223 S. West Street, Board Room
Raleigh, North Carolina

Call to Order
The University of North Carolina Board of Governors met on May 21, 2026, at the University of North Carolina System Office, Raleigh, North Carolina. Approximately 30 minutes before the noticed time of the meeting the power went out in the building until a few minutes before the meeting was slated to begin. Due to technical complications caused by the power outage, the start of the meeting was delayed by 10 minutes and the meeting was not available via videoconference or PBS North Carolina Livestream.

Chair Wendy Murphy called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. She began by recognizing guests in attendance: Ms. Jessica Woods and Mr. Shea Browning from Western Carolina University. She also took a moment to thank this year's Presidential Scholars for their support over the past year, noting this meeting as their last Board meeting before the end of their one-year tenure.

Invocation
Chair Murphy called on Mr. Art Pope 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	J. Alex Mitchell
C. Philip Byers	Wendy Floyd Murphy
Swadesh Chatterjee	Sonja Phillips Nichols
Jimmy D. Clark	Art Pope
Carolyn Coward	Randy Ramsey
Gene Davis	Rushil Sachania
Joel Ford	Woody White
John A. Fraley	Michael Williford

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.

Administration of the Oath of Office

Chair Murphy introduced the Honorable Tamara Barringer, associate justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, who took a moment to speak to her humble roots as a first-generation college student and the "wonderful gift of the UNC System" in changing her life and the lives of her three sisters. She then administered the oath of office for Mr. Rushil Sachania. Mr. Sachania, a student at East Carolina University, was recently elected president of the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments (ASG). In this capacity, Mr. Sachania now serves as an *ex-officio* member of the Board of Governors.

Mr. Sachania briefly thanked his family for their support, and Chair Murphy noted that Mr. Sachania would give his report at the next regular meeting of the Board of Governors.

Presentation of the 2026 Oliver Max Gardner Award

Chair Murphy announced that the Board has the honor of selecting a recipient for the Oliver Max Gardner Award, which is the highest honor the System confers on faculty. She explained that the award was established by the will of the late Governor Gardner to recognize a UNC System faculty member whose work has made the greatest contributions to the human race. She thanked members of the O. Max Gardner Award subcommittee, Mr. Holton, Mr. Hutchens, and Mrs. Nichols, as well as members of the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs for overseeing the award process. She then called on Mr. Hutchens to begin the award presentation.

Mr. Hutchens stated that after careful consideration the committee selected Dr. Youngsoo "Richard" Kim, the Jimmy D. Clark Distinguished Professor in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at NC State University, as the recipient of the 2026 Oliver Max Gardner Award. Mr. Hutchens recognized Dr. Kim's guests in the audience: his wife, Mrs. Jeehye "Jennifer" Kim; his son, Mr. Daniel S. Kim; his daughter, Mrs. Frances Kwon, and her husband, Mr. Jimmy Kwon, and their sons, Micah Kwon and Myles Kwon; his pastor and pastor's wife, Daniel Jungkyu Kim and Beth Jungkyu Kim; and his colleagues at NC State, Dr. Murthy Guddati, professor, and Dr. Cassie Castorena, the Lawrence A. Twisdale Jr. Distinguished Professor. Mr. Hutchens explained that Dr. Kim's work as a civil engineer in the laboratory and field aspects of performance evaluation of asphalt materials and pavements transformed global transportation infrastructure, reshaped industry practice, and established new standards for scientific rigor in design, delivering lasting and measurable improvements in safety, sustainability, and quality of life for millions around the world.

Following a brief video highlighting Dr. Kim's accomplishments, President Peter Hans presented Dr. Kim with a framed citation, stating that Dr. Kim was highly deserving of the honor. After receiving the citation, Dr. Kim gave a speech, expressing how meaningful it was for the committee to recognize the importance of his work. He spoke of the many Ph.D. and master's students that were part of his journey, and he thanked his colleagues, with whom he spent thousands of hours brainstorming challenges. He closed his speech by thanking his family for making his work possible and always believing in his ability to solve problems, and thanked God for guiding his research. For a profile of Dr. Kim's achievements, please see APPENDIX A.

Chair Murphy then called on Mr. Holten to introduce Mr. Dave Boliek, state auditor of North Carolina, to give the report from the Office of the State Auditor of North Carolina.

Report from the Office of the State Auditor of North Carolina

Mr. Boliek began his report by acknowledging the Board and the strength of the relationship between the state and the UNC System as evidenced by the fact that 24.7 percent of the state budget goes to the System. He also noted that he had an opportunity to meet with almost every chancellor in the System, calling it a testament to their leadership. Mr. Boliek explained that there is a lack of qualified professionals to handle public dollars, therefore the state relies on the System to provide the required competencies through its graduates. While the state is gradually incorporating artificial intelligence to analyze records, the state needs the accounting perspective of graduates, as every misspent dollar is one that cannot go to the System.

Mr. Boliek mentioned the work of several institutions: he thanked Chancellor Karrie Dixon's team at North Carolina Central University for receiving a clean audit after significant findings; he also mentioned the fine work happening at Elizabeth City State University under Chancellor Keith Hargrove's leadership, overcoming issues to get to a clean audit; and he thanked Chancellor James Martin of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, as well as President Hans, and Jennifer Haygood, senior vice president for finance and chief financial officer at the System, for their cooperative partnership, recognizing the institution as a public asset requiring judicious handling during situations of misappropriation so that the state can move forward.

Mr. Boliek continued his report discussing his work on behalf of the Division of Accountability, Value, and Efficiency Act (DAVE Act) to streamline spending. Currently, he is looking at tenured professors and faculty workload as a matter of public interest and interest to Board and chancellors, to provide future guidance. He noted several findings in his audit of federal funds but described it as unremarkable. Other audits in progress include an audit of the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) Opportunity Scholarship, and a review of the Board's policies on university Visa and Mastercard, specifically for NCCU, Fayetteville State University, and University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He also noted that the state conducts information system audits to ensure appropriate policies concerning internet technology.

In closing, Mr. Boliek mentioned that many institutions received the State Auditor's Award of Excellence, including NC State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, ECU, Appalachian State University, University of North Carolina Asheville, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Carolina Greensboro, and UNC School of the Arts. He also reminded the System of the importance of succession planning, especially in financial departments, and to keep in mind that we are training future financial professionals and must practice what we teach to set a good example.

Chair Murphy then gave her report to the Board.

Chair's Report

Chair Murphy began her report reflecting on her first remarks as chair of the Board, and her initial goal to simply focus on the mission of the System and let it guide the Board's service to the people of North Carolina. From her perspective, the Board needed to focus more on thoughtful policymaking that will strengthen the University and less on big initiatives that bring a lot of attention. She championed courage, humility, efficiency, and curiosity in adapting to new challenges in the state during this era of change.

In looking back, Chair Murphy expressed pride in the Board's approach and recognized the responsibility and privilege of serving on the Board. She also expressed gratitude for the commitment of fellow Board members. Chair Murphy spoke of the many issues she gave voice to through her platform as chair — such as student mental health, reading literacy, math education, student success, and how to reach all types of students — and provided examples of how the University's mission of service positively impacts daily life in North Carolina. She also spoke of the return on investment for graduates and the importance of delivering the promised value of a System education as we develop the necessary workforce to meet the needs of our growing state. Additionally, Chair Murphy underscored the importance of students finding purpose in service to their communities and expressed gratitude for being part of a System that is committed to developing the hearts and minds of its students, evidenced by the contributions of alumni, faculty, staff, and students.

In closing, Chair Murphy championed the value and transformative power of being a lifelong learner as a sign of strong leadership and good governance. As Chair Murphy described it, an attitude of learning "requires us to come to the table ready to ask questions, to challenge our own assumptions, and to hear perspectives that may differ from our own." Chair Murphy ended her remarks by thanking Chair Emeritus Ramsey for his leadership and for the privilege of serving, challenging the Board to continue on the path of curiosity and civil discourse in service to the mission of the University, and to always center the mission and the people of North Carolina in the work of the Board.

At the conclusion of the chair's report, President Hans stated that he would suspend his remarks and Chair Murphy moved forward with the consent agenda items.

Consent Agenda Items
Chair Murphy referred to the consent agenda items listed as Item 8 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 April 16, 2026

Committee on Budget and Finance
b. Establishment of For-Profit Associated Entity – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill APPENDIX B
c. Capital Improvement Projects APPENDIX C

Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs
d. Resolution for UNC Wilmington Healthcare Planning Approval APPENDIX D
e. UNC System Academic Degree Program Actions APPENDIX E
f. Licensure Approvals APPENDIX F
g. Resolution for Commission for Public Higher Education APPENDIX G

Committee on University Personnel
h. Section 300.1.5 of the UNC policy Manual, *Occupation of Official Residences of the Chancellors and the President* (amend) (approved April 15, 2026) APPENDIX H

Report of the Committee on Budget and Finance
Mr. Bradley reported that the committee received a brief update on the Short Session state budget, a presentation on the FY25 Composite Financial Index and New Financial Health Framework, as well as the FY2024 Facilities Inventory and Space Utilization Study. Next, the committee considered and approved the Establishment of For-Profit Associated Entity for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and recommended it for approval on the consent agenda. The committee also reviewed and approved one transactional item that was included on the consent agenda, the authorization of a new capital project at UNC Charlotte and two increased authorizations, one at Elizabeth City State University and the other at UNC Charlotte. Finally, the committee's additional materials included the full FY 2024 Facilities Inventory and Space Utilization Study.

Report of the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs
Mr. Hutchens stated that the committee began by recognizing Wade Maki for his service over the previous year as the Faculty Assembly chair and Mr. Rushil Sachania, who attended his first committee meeting as the student Board of Governors member for the 2026-27 academic year. Next, the committee received an academic affairs update on the 2026 UNC Behavioral Health Convening, an event aimed at advancing collaboration and shared focus around behavioral health across the UNC System. He also highlighted the 2025 UNC System Athletics Report, which provides an overview of intercollegiate athletics across our institutions.

Next, the committee heard a broadened discussion of the UNC System Workforce Alignment Report. The committee began the discussion during the April committee meeting and continued to discuss the report's findings and the UNC System's response and next steps. Mr. Hutchens noted that the discussion will help frame the work ahead across institutions as the System continues to evaluate how academic programs align with student demand, workforce needs, and the state's long-term economic and societal priorities. Following the discussion, the committee received a resolution authorizing UNC Wilmington to initiate planning related to the healthcare needs of southeastern North Carolina, including the potential development of a medical school and Doctor of Medicine degree program. The resolution was voted on and approved by the full Board through the consent agenda.

Additionally, the committee reviewed the Academic Degree Program Actions, including seven new program establishments and 15 program discontinuations. The changes were presented and approved by the full Board through the consent agenda. The committee also reviewed licensure items, according to the Board's statutory responsibility to review and approve licensure matters in a way that supports quality, accountability, and appropriate oversight across North Carolina's higher education landscape. The licensure items were approved by the full Board through the consent agenda. Then the committee received a presentation on the UNC System AI Foundational Skills and Literacy Initiative. Mr. Hutchens noted that the initiative reflects the good work happening across the UNC System to prepare our students, faculty, and institutions for the opportunities and responsibilities presented by artificial intelligence.

Lastly, Mr. Hutchens outlined the Resolution for Authorization Related to the Commission for Public Higher Education (CPHE) to authorize the UNC System to request to become a member of CPHE's Board of Directors, and to delegate authority to the president to take the actions necessary to pursue and exercise that membership. CPHE is organized as a nonprofit entity with a stated purpose of advancing the quality and improvement of higher education, including through the accreditation and pre-accreditation of state public colleges and universities. The resolution was approved by the full Board through the consent agenda.

After giving the committee report, Mr. Hutchens called on Mr. Maki to give his report as chair of the Faculty Assembly. Mr. Maki stated that it was an honor to give his last report to the Board and recalled the journey of perception that he went through as chair. He spoke of his perceptions about the Board that evolved after seeing the work firsthand and expressed hope that the Board's experience with him changed their perception of faculty. He also spoke of the many initiatives shaped by faculty over the past four years and how important it was to have a seat at the table to have difficult conversations. Additionally, Mr. Maki underscored the importance of expanding opportunities for term faculty and recognizing talent over title. In closing, Mr. Maki expressed gratitude toward the Faculty Executive Committee for challenging him and guiding everything the Assembly accomplished, giving a special thank you to Dr. Toby King, the next elected chair of the UNC Faculty Assembly chair for 2026-28. Mr. Hutchens thanked Mr. Maki for his informed and memorable reports.

Next, Chair Murphy called on Mr. Mitchell to give the report from the Committee on University Governance.

Report of the Committee on University Governance
Mr. Mitchell stated that the committee voted on an appointment to the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees that would require approval by the Board. The appointment before the Board was for Dr. Kristin Baker to fill a partial term beginning on May 21, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027 (APPENDIX I).

Motion: Resolved, that on behalf of the Committee on University Governance, I move that the Board of Governors appoint Kristin Baker to the University of North Carolina School at Chapel Hill Board of Trustees to fill a partial term starting on May 21, 2026, that ends on June 30, 2027.

Motion: Mr. Mitchell
Motion carried

Chair Murphy called on Mr. Holton for the report from the Committee on Audit, Risk Management, and Compliance

Report of the Committee on Audit, Risk Management, and Compliance
Mr. Holton, chair of the committee, stated that the committee received informational updates regarding ongoing audit, risk management, and compliance activities. The open session meeting included multiple informational items on topics such as the UNC System Office Internal Audit Plan Status Updates, UNC System Enterprise Risk Management Updates, and UNC System Approach to Emergency Communications. Jennifer Myers, chief audit officer, presented the UNC System Office Internal Audit Plan Status Updates, which outlined the periodic report detailing the progress of planned audits, tracking the implementation of management action plans, and providing assurance to the audit committee of the great work that has been completed or is in progress.

Next, Mr. Bryan Heckle, director of enterprise risk management compliance and audit services, briefed the committee on the UNC System enterprise risk management updates. He outlined how enterprise risk management (ERM) is driving measurable progress, significantly reducing campus risks while enhancing system-wide engagement and alignment.

Mr. Holton closed his report with an overview of the brief the committee received from members of the Emergency Communications Council (ECC) on how institutions are evolving their safety protocols to meet modern challenges during campus emergencies. Dr. Melissa Wargo, chief of staff and chief external affairs officer at WCU; Ms. Andrea Weaver, chief marketing and communications officer at UNCW; and Mr. Chuck McKinnon, associate vice chancellor for strategic communications at FSU, began the discussion by highlighting the need to establish a new foundational communications framework. This emergency initiative challenges everyone to uphold maximum transparency and accountability, fostering shared learning and improvement within this fast-paced environment. Mr. Holton concluded by congratulating the working team as well as the president and chancellors for leading this powerful effort in communications.

Next, Chair Murphy called on Mr. Ford to give the report from the Committee on Strategic Initiatives.

Report of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives
Mr. Ford stated that the committee began with a presentation by Dr. Nathan Dollar from Carolina Demography for an update on state demographic trends. With North Carolina experiencing a population boom and significant in-state migration, the trends discussed by Dr. Dollar have major implications on state economic and workforce needs and, in turn, on the UNC System's ability to keep up with these needs. Dr. Dollar talked about how our state's population growth has exceeded the nation's for every year since 1970, and how students the UNC System will serve in the coming years will look meaningfully different: older, more urban, and more diverse. Mr. Ford expressed his appreciation for Dr. Dollar and the great work the Carolina Demography team is doing to inform on the changing demographic trends and how they affect the UNC System.

Next, Dr. Shun Robertson talked about efforts underway across the System to maintain a healthy achievement culture. The committee heard about the System's multipronged approach to expanding access, maintaining rigorous academic expectations, and developing structured supports for student success and well-being. Finally, Dr. Robertson provided an update about the next phase of the System's strategic plan: Higher Expectations. As the UNC System enters its final year of its five-year strategic plan, efforts are underway to launch the new strategic planning process. Over the course of the next year, System Office staff will meet with a range of stakeholders to seek input and refine our key strategic planning metrics. Mr. Ford closed by noting that our strategic plan is foundational work and ensures that our university system remains aligned to the evolving needs of our state.

Recognition of Secretary Pearl Burris-Floyd
Chair Murphy took a moment to recognize outgoing Board secretary, Dr. Pearl Burris-Floyd, as the longest serving secretary in the history of the UNC Board of Governors, serving from 2017 to 2026. She described Secretary Burris-

Floyd as a passionate public servant, a champion for education, and a woman of faith and family. She then presented her with a gift and said that she was thankful to continue working together with Secretary Burris-Floyd for the remainder of her term on the Board. Chair Murphy then called on Vice Chair Blue for a special presentation.

Recognition of Chair Wendy Murphy
Vice Chair Blue called on President Hans for the next presentation. President Hans recognized Chair Murphy as a staunch and clear-eyed advocate of campus police departments, with an understanding that law enforcement and public safety officers directly shoulder the responsibility of the well-being of students. He noted that we live in a time where chiefs and their teams must handle a range of threats so that we may have peace on our campuses and that Chair Murphy's advocacy has led to a more-capable and better-equipped University. He then presented Chair Murphy with a framed gift on behalf of the 17 chiefs of police.

Following the presentation, Vice Chair Blue noted that it was an absolute privilege to serve with Chair Murphy and on behalf of the entire Board, Vice Chair Blue, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Ford, Mr. Hutchens, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Coward, Mr. Holton, Mr. Clark, and Secretary Burris-Floyd presented Chair Murphy with a resolution honoring her service as Board chair (APPENDIX J).

Chair Murphy thanked everyone, noting that her work with the Board was a team effort, and called for the election of officers.

Election of Officers
Chair Murphy stated that the Board membership received a memo on May 1 concerning the election process for Board officers, noting that the Board would be voting to fill the offices of chair, vice chair, and secretary. She stated that Vice Chair Blue communicated her intent to run for Board chair, Mr. Hutchens communicated his intent to run for Board vice chair, and Mrs. Coward communicated her intent to run for Board secretary. Chair Murphy then asked if any member intended to offer a nomination for themselves or others for any of the three leadership positions. Hearing none, she entertained a motion to suspend the Board election policy requiring a written ballot and instead vote for all three officers as a slate of nominees.

Motion: Resolved, that the Board suspend election policy in Section 200.2 of the UNC Policy Manual, *Election Procedures*, requiring a written ballot, and instead vote for all three officers as a slate of nominees.

Motion: Mr. Davis
Motion carried

Next, Chair Murphy entertained a motion to elect Vice Chair Blue as chair, Mr. Hutchens as vice chair, and Mrs. Coward as secretary.

Motion: Resolved that the Board accept the current slate of nominees and elect Mrs. Blue as Board chair, Mr. Hutchens as Board vice chair, and Mrs. Coward as Board secretary.

Motion: Mr. Holley
Motion carried

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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 K). The motion was properly seconded.

Motion: Pearl Burris-Floyd
Motion carried

The Board went into closed session at 11:41 a.m. and returned to open session at 12:16 p.m.

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

Report of the Committee on University Personnel
Mrs. Coward reported that during its meeting, the committee received two informational reports, the President's Delegated Faculty Tenure Conferral Report and the Annual Report on Delegated HR Actions.

Chair Murphy then presented the report of the Presidential Assessment Committee.

Report of the Presidential Assessment Committee
Chair Murphy stated that based upon the committee's review of President Hans' performance on the quantitative metrics set by the Board, along with its qualitative assessment of his leadership and management of the UNC System, the committee unanimously recommended that the Board approve the resolution presented today (APPENDIX L).

Motion: Resolved, that on behalf of the Presidential Assessment Committee, the Board of Governors approve the resolution calling for a one-time incentive compensation payment for the president in the amount of $493,500 to be made as a contribution to the president's Senior Administrative Officer Retirement Program account.

Motion: Mr. Holley
Motion carried

There being no further business and without objection, the meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Governors is designated a one-day special meeting and is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2026, at the UNC System Office in Raleigh, NC.

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Carolyn Coward, *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	Profile of the 2026 Oliver Max Gardner Award Winner – Dr. Youngsoo "Richard" Kim
APPENDIX B	Establishment of For-Profit Associated Entity – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
APPENDIX C	Capital Improvement Projects
APPENDIX D	Resolution for UNC Wilmington Healthcare Planning Approval
APPENDIX E	UNC System Academic Degree Program Actions
APPENDIX F	Licensure Approvals
APPENDIX G	Resolution for Commission for Public Higher Education
APPENDIX H	Section 300.1.5 of the UNC policy Manual, *Occupation of Official Residences of the Chancellors and the President* (amend) (approved April 15, 2026)
APPENDIX I	Appointment to the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees
APPENDIX J	Resolution Honoring Chair Murphy
APPENDIX K	Full Board Closed Motion
APPENDIX L	President Hans Resolution (PAC)