

July 23, 2026

5 minutes after the adjournment of the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

Via Videoconference and PBS North Carolina Livestream

AGENDA

OPEN SESSION

- A-1. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of May 20, 2026.....Alex Mitchell
- A-2. North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission AppointmentsAlex Mitchell
- A-3. PBS North Carolina Board of Trustees AppointmentsRandy Ramsey
- A-4. University of North Carolina Asheville Board of Trustees AppointmentJoel Ford
- A-5. University of North Carolina at Charlotte Board of Trustees Appointment C. Philip Byers
- A-6. UNC Press Board of Governors AppointmentsAlex Mitchell

CLOSED SESSION

- A-7. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of May 20, 2026.....Alex Mitchell
- A-8. Legal Affairs ReportAndrew Tripp

OPEN SESSION

- A-9. 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.

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

DRAFT MINUTES

May 20, 2026, at 1:00 p.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: Randall C. Ramsey, Pearl Burris-Floyd, Joel D. Ford, C. Philip Byers, and Michael Williford.

Also participating were 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.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Open Session Minutes of April 15, 2026 (Item A-1)

The chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. The open session minutes from the April 15, 2026, meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

2. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Board of Trustees Appointment (Item A-2)

Chair Mitchell asked Vice Chair Ramsey to present a nominee for appointment to the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees. Upon presentation of the nominee, Vice Chair Ramsey asked for a motion of approval.

MOTION: Resolved, that the Committee on University Governance approve the nomination of Kristin D. Baker to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Board of Trustees to fill a partial term starting on May 21, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.

Motion: Randall C. Ramsey

Motion carried

3. 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 1:02 p.m.
(The complete minutes of the closed session are recorded separately.)

THE MEETING RESUMED IN OPEN SESSION AT 2:24 p.m.

There being no further business and without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Michael Williford, Secretary

AGENDA ITEM

A-2. NC Teaching Fellows Commission AppointmentsAlex Mitchell

Situation: The University of North Carolina Board of Governors has seven appointments to the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission for two-year terms. There are six individuals for reappointment and one for a new appointment.

Background: North Carolina G.S. 116-209.61 established the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission. The 14-member commission is charged with determining the program and forgivable loan recipient selection criteria and selection procedures, and with selecting the recipients to receive forgivable loans under the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.

The Board of Governors has seven appointments to the commission:

1. Two deans of approved schools of education at postsecondary constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina System;
2. The president of a North Carolina community college;
3. A teacher who graduated from an approved educator preparation program located in the state within three years of appointment to serve on the commission;
4. A principal who graduated from an approved educator preparation program located in the state;
5. A local board of education member; and
6. A member to represent business and industry in North Carolina.

Assessment: The following nominees are recommended for reappointment.

UNC System dean.....Malcolm Butler
NC community college president.....Amanda Lee
NC beginning teacher.....Taleek Harlee
NC principal.....Matthew Price
NC local board of education member.....Debora Powell
NC business and industry representative.....Patrick Brennan

The following nominee is recommended for appointment:

UNC System dean.....André Green

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

UNC System dean: Malcolm Butler (reappointment)

Dr. Malcolm Butler is professor and dean of the Cato College of Education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Butler earned a Bachelor of Science in physics from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He also completed a Master of Education and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction (science education) at the University of Florida. Butler has taught mathematics, science, and life from elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as college students. He has been affiliated with several institutions of higher education, including the College of William and Mary, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, the University of Georgia, the University of South Florida, and the University of Central Florida. Butler has secured over \$7 million in funding to support his research and scholarly initiatives. He has served in leadership capacities in his profession, include board member of NARST (a global organization for improving science education through research) and Nap Ford Community School Inc. (Orlando, Florida); chair of the board for the Council of Scientific Society Presidents; and president of the Association for Science Teacher Education.

NC community college president: Amanda “Mandi” Lee (reappointment)

Dr. Mandi Lee currently serves as the president of Bladen Community College in Dublin, North Carolina. Immediately prior to that, she served as interim chief of staff and vice president for academic affairs at Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky. Lee also served as president of Cape Fear Community College from 2015 to 2017. She has Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts from Baylor University and a Ph.D. from Regent University.

Beginning teacher: Taleek Harlee (reappointment)

Taleek Harlee is a 2022 and 2025 graduate of NC State University. He holds a Bachelor of Science in agricultural education with a concentration in horticultural science, a master’s degree in agriculture education, and is a former North Carolina Teaching Fellow. Harlee is a horticulture teacher at his alma mater of Purnell Swett High School in Robeson County. During his undergraduate time at NC State, he served as a College of Agriculture and Life Science senator, was vice chair of the student government committee on government relations and oversight, served as a diversity and education ambassador, and served on several university hiring committees. Harlee also worked as a student coordinator for Multicultural Student Affairs and served as a North Carolina Cooperative Extension intern.

Principal: Matthew Price (reappointment)

Matthew Price is a graduate of East Carolina University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in secondary science education followed by his Master of School Administration. He has over 15 years of education experience. Price proudly serves as principal of Garner Magnet High School in Wake County Public Schools.

Local board of education member: Debora Powell (reappointment)

The Rev. Dr. Debora Powell attended East Carolina University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in special education with a minor in psychology. While attending ECU, she was initiated into the Eta Mu Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and gained a legacy of sisterhood and service that continues today. She earned her Master of Education degree from Grand Canyon University and Doctor of Philosophy in Christian counseling through the Accredited Institute of Higher Learning through Wilson Chapel Church. A retired educator, Powell taught in Randolph, Robeson, Wilson, Wake, and Nash-Rocky Mount Schools. She was first elected to the Wilson County Board of Education in 2014 and subsequently reelected in 2018 and 2022. Powell serves on the boards for the St. John Community Development Corp. Inc., and for Dee’s House, both located in Wilson, North Carolina. She is on the Committee for Persons

with Disabilities, a Guardian Ad Litem, and the chaplain for the Beta Zeta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority and has served as a mentor for H.E.R. Pride of Wilson County Schools. She also served as the liaison between Wilson County Schools and the WAGES Foster Grandparent Program.

Business/Industry Representative: Patrick Brennan (reappointment)

Patrick Brennan is a product of the North Carolina public school system and the son of North Carolina educators. His mother taught ninth-grade science at Kernersville's East Forsyth High School for many years. His grandmother was educated at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro), and she taught fifth grade for more than 20 years. In his professional capacity, he serves as the vice president of public policy and government relations at Learning Ally, a nonprofit dedicated to providing audiobooks that aid in the development of reading skills for students in special education. In this capacity, Brennan works nationwide with the legislatures, departments of education, and governors who have trusted Learning Ally to serve their struggling readers. He is passionate about making sure that students and teachers are the beneficiaries of taking research to practice. Brennan is a member of the board of directors of the UCSF Dyslexia Center. He also serves on the board of directors of the Strategic Education Research Partnership in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School with an MBA in finance.

UNC System Dean: André M. Green (appointment)

Dr. André M. Green is the dean of the College of Education at East Carolina University, one of North Carolina's leading producers of educators. Since joining ECU in July 2023, he has driven transformative initiatives to strengthen the college's programs, expand the state's teacher workforce, and advance student success across North Carolina, with a special focus on serving eastern North Carolina. Under his leadership, the college was selected as a North Carolina Teaching Fellows institution after nearly a decade of absence, positioning ECU to prepare more highly qualified teachers for the state while maintaining a strong commitment to the eastern region.

As a former middle and high school science and mathematics teacher, Green brings firsthand classroom experience to his leadership. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from Alabama State University (1995) and Hampton University (1998), respectively, and his doctorate in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in science education from Virginia Tech (2006). He also brings extensive experience in higher education leadership, having served in multiple senior roles at the University of South Alabama, where he was a tenured full professor and one of the most externally funded faculty members in the institution's history. His career spans teaching in K-12 classrooms, mentoring future teachers, and advancing initiatives that improve student access, retention, and success at every level. At ECU, Green is committed to preparing the next generation of educators who will shape classrooms, schools, and communities across North Carolina, ensuring the college continues to be a cornerstone of the state's educational excellence.

AGENDA ITEM

A-3. PBS North Carolina Board of Trustees Appointments Randy Ramsey

Situation: PBS North Carolina has seven members who were appointed by the Board of Governors whose terms ended June 30, 2026. Six of the seven seats are before the committee for consideration.

Background: PBS North Carolina Board of Trustees serves in a direct advisory capacity, assuring that involvement and perspectives will have further influence on PBS NC operations. The Board of Governors appoints 11 trustees, the governor appoints four, and the president pro tempore of the North Carolina Senate and speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives each appoint one. Five serve ex officio: the president of the University of North Carolina System, the president of the NC Community College System, the superintendent of public instruction, the secretary of health and human services, and the secretary of cultural resources.

Assessment: The following six individuals are up for reappointment to a four-year term, ending June 30, 2030: James Broughton, James Cain, Culley C. Carson IV, Anne Mayo Evans, Russell Smith, and Bill R. West. 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.

James "Jimmy" Broughton

Jimmy Broughton is a government relations specialist and has worked with numerous organizations, including Wake Forest University. Broughton served as the chief of staff for U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms from 1994 to 2003 and had a variety of responsibilities that included managing the senator's legislative agenda and coordinating presidential nominations. In 2003, he joined the law firm of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice LLP, and his work focused on a variety of state issues, including education, healthcare, economic development, and military affairs. From 2015 to 2017, Broughton again served as a chief of staff, this time in the office of NC Gov. Pat McCrory. Originally from Raleigh, Broughton graduated from Wake Forest University and now resides in Winston-Salem.

James "Jim" Cain

Jim Cain rejoined the Kilpatrick Townsend firm in March 2009 following his three and a half years of service as America's ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark. As co-founder of the Raleigh office, he has spent more than 20 years with the firm, focusing his legal practice on advising corporate and governmental clients on strategies relating to growth, economic development, and community enhancement.

Cain has served in leadership positions for numerous civic and nonprofit institutions including the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, Character Education Foundation, American Red Cross, American Diabetes Association, and Boy Scouts of America. He has chaired the boards of the Food Bank of North Carolina, Communities in Schools of Wake County, and the Eastern North Carolina Chamber of Commerce. Cain was named "Business Leader of the Year" by *Business Leader* magazine, received the John Ross Leadership Award from the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau, and received the National Outstanding Community Service Award from the American Diabetes Association in 2003. He also served as Republican National Committeeman for North Carolina from 2003 to 2005 and served as regional chairman and the state finance vice chairman for the Bush-Cheney 2004 Campaign. He served as President George W. Bush's emissary to the Philippines for the inauguration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2004.

Culley C. Carson IV

Culley C. Carson IV is the founding member of Carson Law. His practice focuses on representing business clients in the construction industry. Carson has a broad range of experience representing owners, general contractors, and subcontractors in drafting industry standards and customized construction contracts. He has substantial litigation and dispute resolution experience representing his clients in mediation, arbitration, and litigation, and before professional licensing boards. Carson received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his J.D. from Catholic University.

Anne Mayo Evans

Anne Mayo Evans, a native of Tarboro, North Carolina, has practiced law since 1987. She is currently with the law firm of Player & McLean LLP, in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Evans' practice has included experience with commercial real estate transactions, environmental easements, zoning, creditor and debtor issues, condemnation, real estate and construction law claims and litigation, estates, and securities law. She currently concentrates on commercial transactions and leases, construction and corporate law, and creditor and collection issues and litigation, and advises clients on a wide range of real property law issues.

Evans obtained her undergraduate degree in 1978 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She graduated cum laude in 1987 from the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, Campbell University, where she was a member of the editorial board of the Campbell Law Review. Evans is a former president and first vice president of the Cumberland County Bar Association and 12th Judicial District Bar and has served on the North Carolina Bar Association Bankruptcy Council and Local Bar Services Committee. She has also served on the boards of various local organizations, including the Center for Economic Empowerment and Development and Cape Fear Regional Theatre.

Russell Smith

Russell Smith has been in the retail clothing business for 40 years. He established Russell's Clothing in 1983 and continues to serve his customers from all over the country. Smith is a past Rotarian and served two terms as president of Washington's 102-year-old club. He graduated from Beaufort County Technical Institute in 1975 with an associate degree in retailing and marketing technology. Smith just began his 13th year on the Beaufort County Community College Board of Trustees, having served three of those years as chairman.

Bill R. West

Bill West, retired, served as the senior vice president and area manager for BB&T Insurance Services, a position he held since 1992. He developed a new area of employee benefits, which then led to the development of a self-funded administrative unit. West is a notable speaker for the National Insurance Convention, National Faculty of Certified Insurance Counselors, and the North Carolina Department of Insurance, where he also served as continuing education instructor. His professional memberships include chairman of the board for MedCost Benefit Services, LLC (TPA) and board member of W.E. Stanley Insurance as well as the NC and National Associations of Health and Life Underwriters. He has also participated as a board member of Professional Insurance Agents, Certified Insurance Counselors, and Independent Insurance Agents Association. His current civic and community involvement includes membership with the Pope Special Activity Committee; lifetime membership with the National Air Force Association; service as vice president and finance chair for the Cumberland County Auditorium Commission and on the Methodist College Board of Trustees; membership on the Fort Bragg Special Activities Committee; and service to the Fayetteville area metro Junior Golf Association as a founding member.

AGENDA ITEM

A-4. University of North Carolina Asheville Board of Trustees AppointmentJoel Ford

Situation:	The University of North Carolina Asheville Board of Trustees has a vacancy on its Board of Trustees due to the partial-term service of David Luck.
Background:	The partial term vacancy is effective July 23, 2026, to June 30, 2027.
Assessment:	Kenneth Russell “Rusty” Edwards is nominated to fill the partial term vacancy 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.

Rusty Edwards

Rusty Edwards is the regional executive in commercial banking for Western North Carolina and Upstate South Carolina for First Bank. He has over 30 years' experience providing regional company growth in the banking industry and has served in all aspects of commercial, business banking, and consumer banking leadership, including strategic planning, credit analysis, risk analysis and mitigation, team leadership and development and portfolio management. Edwards spent a total of 23 years with Wells Fargo/Wachovia and prior to that, seven years with RBC Centura. He is passionate about creating valuable partnerships and working with people at all levels of the organization, including shareholders, executive management, team members, and customers. Edwards served on the Pardee Hospital Foundation Board and as chair of the development committee for the All Souls Counseling Center. He is a native of Haywood County and proudly served in the United States Marine Corps from 1986 to 1991. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Western Carolina University.

AGENDA ITEM

A-5. University of North Carolina at Charlotte Board of Trustees AppointmentC. Philip Byers

- Situation:** Hugh McColl submitted his resignation from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Board of Trustees effective June 30, 2026, creating a vacancy on the board.
- Background:** The partial term vacancy is effective July 23, 2026, to June 30, 2027.
- Assessment:** Jonathan Ward is nominated to fill the vacancy as a result of Hugh McColl's resignation. The partial term ends 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.

Jonathan “Jon” Ward

Jon Ward is the chief executive officer of Ward Vessel and Exchanger, an ASME Code pressure vessel and heat exchanger fabrication company with facilities in Charlotte and Houston, Texas. Founded in 1982 by his father, Don Ward, and his uncle, John Ward, the company has grown into a respected fabricator of specialty alloy equipment, including nickel alloys and duplex stainless, and today employs approximately 110 people across both locations. Ward earned his engineering degree from UNC Charlotte, while he worked part time in the family business as a draftsman and designer. After college, he spent five years in Arizona working construction projects for J.A. Jones and Kitchell before returning home. In the late 1990s his father asked him to come back and help run the company, and Ward stepped in as president shortly after.

Beyond Ward Vessel and Exchanger, Ward is an active voice in the fabrication and manufacturing industry. He is heavily engaged with the political advocacy committee for the Steel Tank Institute and Steel Plate Fabricators Association (STI/SPFA) and serves as an active spokesperson and contributor for the organization. He hosts Forged in Focus, a podcast that explores the issues shaping the future of American manufacturing through conversations with industry leaders, inspectors, engineers, and suppliers. He also has a long record of board service. Ward currently sits on the board of directors for Myers and Chapman and for Ward Vessel and Exchanger and previously served on the board of directors for STICO Mutual Insurance Company, STI/SPFA, and Cannon School. Additionally, he serves on the board of advisors for the UNC Charlotte College of Engineering, and Ward Vessel and Exchanger is heavily involved with the UNC Charlotte Super Fab Lab.

AGENDA ITEM

A-6. UNC Press Board of Governors AppointmentsAlex Mitchell

Situation: UNC Press has three vacancies with five-year terms beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2031, and two board appointees whose term expired June 30, 2026. Two of the three vacancies and the two reappointments are before the committee today for consideration.

Background: The UNC Press Board of Governors has 15 elected members who serve five-year terms and may be reelected for successive terms up to a service limit of three full terms. Eleven of the current members actively hold an academic position at universities, including Appalachian State University, North Carolina Central University, NC State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

According to its bylaws, the UNC Press Board of Governors creates a nominating committee and submits candidates to the chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who transmits it to the president of the UNC System, who presents it to the Board of Governors.

Assessment: Pursuant to the bylaws of UNC Press and the transmittal of nominations to UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Lee Roberts and President Peter Hans, it is recommended to nominate María Estorino for a partial term appointment ending June 30, 2030, C. Edward Teague III for an appointment ending June 30, 2031, and Elizabeth Engelhardt and Osamudia James for reappointments ending June 30, 2031. Biographical information for each can be found in your materials.

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

María Estorino

María Estorino is the vice provost for University Libraries and university librarian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before coming to UNC-Chapel Hill she worked in various capacities for University of Miami Libraries. Estorino is a professional library consultant and served as principal investigator to over \$1 million in library grant funding. She currently serves on several boards, including the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries, HathiTrust, the Triangle Research Library Network, the Association of Research Libraries, the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, and UNC Press. Estorino received a BA in history from Loyola University, an MA in history from Northeastern University, and MS in library science from Simmons College.

C. Edward Teague III

C. Edward Teague III is of counsel at Cunningham Law and The Carson Law Firm in Raleigh. He previously served as associate general counsel at the University of North Carolina General Administration and counsel or associate at various other firms. Teague serves on multiple boards, including the UNC-Chapel Hill Carolina Public Humanities Advisory Board, the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation, and the UNC Healthcare System Board of Directors. He received a BA from UNC-Chapel Hill, and both an MBA and a JD from Wake Forest University.

Elizabeth Engelhardt – Current Member

Elizabeth Engelhardt is vice provost for arts and culture and the senior associate dean for fine arts and humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill with oversight of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Carolina Public Humanities, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, and the Center for the Study of the American South. As the inaugural vice provost for arts and culture, Engelhardt oversees a unified structure for arts and culture initiatives across UNC-Chapel Hill, streamlining arts infrastructure that enables more students, faculty, and the public to engage with the arts. The Ackland Art Museum, Carolina Performing Arts, Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, and North Carolina Botanical Garden report to this position; and in her role as senior associate dean, PlayMakers Repertory Company and the academic arts departments of Art and Art History, Dramatic Art, and Music also report to her. Engelhardt is a Kenan Eminent Professor of Southern Studies, joining the UNC-Chapel Hill American Studies faculty in 2015 after spending more than a decade at the University of Texas at Austin. In fall 2023, Engelhardt published *Boardinghouse Women: How Southern Keepers, Cooks, Nurses, Widows, and Runaways Shaped Modern America* (UNC Press), which received the Ragan Old North State Award for Nonfiction in 2024 from the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. She received master's and doctoral degrees from Emory University and a bachelor's degree from Duke University.

Osamudia James – Current Member

Osamudia James joined the University of North Carolina School of Law faculty in 2021 and serves as the Henry P. Brandis Distinguished Professor of Law. Her writing and teaching interests include education law, race and the law, administrative law, and torts. James is the author of numerous articles, book chapters, and popular press commentary exploring the interaction of law and identity in the context of public education. Her work has appeared in the NYU Law Review, the Michigan Law Review, and the Minnesota Law Review, among others, as well as in the pages of the New York Times and Washington Post. In 2023, James was cited in Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's Students for Fair Admissions dissenting opinion. James received a BA in sociology, from the University of Pennsylvania, a JD from the Georgetown University Law Center, and an LL.M. from the University of Wisconsin, where she served as

a William H. Hastie Fellow. She practiced law at King & Spalding in Washington, D.C., before joining the faculty at the University of Miami, where she taught for 13 years prior to joining UNC School of Law. James was a 2014 co-recipient of the Derrick A. Bell Jr. Award, a national award presented to a junior faculty member who makes an extraordinary contribution to legal education, the legal system, or social justice through activism, mentoring, teaching, and scholarship. She was awarded the Hausler Golden Apple Teaching Award from Miami Law in 2017 and was also selected as a University of Miami Public Voices Fellow in 2020. In 2024, she received the Frederick B. McCall Award for Teaching Excellence from the UNC School of Law graduating class.