

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.