

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 1, 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.