



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Committee on Strategic Initiatives

September 19, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.
University of North Carolina System Office
Center for School Leadership Development/Spangler Center, Room 128
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

AGENDA

- A-1. Approval of the Minutes of May 21, 2019 Rob Bryan
- A-2. Approval of Annual Report Rob Bryan
- A-3. Review of Student Success trends and update on Committee Initiatives Andrew Kelly
- A-4. Discussion of Potential Areas of Focus for 2019-20 Rob Bryan
- A-5. Adjourn

Additional Information Available

A-3 Student Success Innovation Lab Update

DRAFT MINUTES

May 21, 2019

University of North Carolina System Office
Center for School Leadership Development, Room 128
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

This meeting of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives was presided over by Chair J. Alex Mitchell. The following committee members were also present in person or by phone: Rob Bryan, Anna Nelson, and Pearl Burris-Floyd.

Chancellors participating were Frank Gilliam and Jose Sartarelli.

Staff members present included Dr. Andrew Kelly, Dr. Bethany Meighen, and others from the UNC System Office.

Other guests included Dr. Robert Bashford, Dr. Allen O'Barr, Laurel Banks, Dr. Monica Osburn, and Dr. Vivian Barnette.

1. Call to Order and Approval of OPEN Session Minutes (Item A-1)

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

2. Information Session Regarding Student Mental and Physical Health (Item A-2)

Committee Chair J. Alex Mitchell introduced the session on student mental health by highlighting the importance of mental and physical health to student success in higher education. The committee then heard from a set of experts on mental health trends and best practices in higher education. Dr. Robert Bashford of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine described the current state of behavioral health among high school and college-age individuals, highlighting significant changes to the environment in which students grow up, including the proliferation of social media and technology. Dr. Allen O'Barr, director of Counseling and Psychological Services at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, provided a summary of the latest national survey data on the incidence of mental health issues among young adults, including anxiety, depression, and other conditions.

The committee then heard from a panel of practitioners from UNC System universities about their experience in addressing mental health challenges and associated best practices. Laurel Banks of The University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Dr. Vivian Barnette of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and Dr. Monica Osburn of North Carolina State University shared institutional perspectives on how to keep students safe and healthy on campus. The information session concluded with a discussion of these issues by Board members, chancellors, and other leaders in attendance. At the conclusion of the discussion, Committee Chair J. Alex Mitchell suggested that, due to the increase of anxiety and depression among college students, the Committee should continue to monitor and assess the issue.

3. Adjourn (Item A-3)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Rob Bryan, Secretary

AGENDA ITEM

A-2. Annual Report of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives..... Rob Bryan

Situation:	Each standing committee submits an annual report of its activities to the Board of Governors.
Background:	Under the UNC Policy Manual, Section 302 E of <i>The Code</i> , "Each standing committee shall make a written report to the Board of Governors at least annually, reviewing the work of the committee during the preceding year."
Assessment:	The annual report on the activities of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives for fiscal year 2018-2019 is ready for review and submission.
Action:	This item requires a vote by the committee.



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Committee on Strategic Initiatives
July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

DUTIES AND MEMBERSHIP

The Board Committee on Strategic Initiatives focuses on opportunities to increase student success across the UNC System. The Committee's work includes: tracking key trends in student success, including progress made toward Strategic Plan goals related to student success; identify, discuss, and debate obstacles to achieving the improvements in student success called for in the Plan; work with UNC System chancellors, faculty, staff, and other subject matter experts to identify potential initiatives that can promote progress on degree completion; and consult relevant higher education research and best practices from institutions and other states to inform Board policies related to student success.

The committee was composed of the following Board members:

J. Alex Mitchell (Chair)	M. Ann Maxwell
Michael Williford (Vice Chair)	Anna Spangler Nelson
Rob Bryan (Secretary)	David Powers
Pearl Burris-Floyd	Bettylenah Njaramba

Chancellor Gilliam (UNCG) and Chancellor Sartarelli (UNCW) also served on the committee.

ACTIONS

The Committee on Strategic Initiatives met in five regular meetings between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. Committee work focused on two key areas:

1. Expanding summer school enrollment

During 2017-18, the committee conducted an assessment of student enrollment in summer academic sessions, discussing the relationship between summer enrollment and credit accumulation and degree completion.

Committee meetings during the first half of the academic year (October, November, and January) focused on the opportunities to expand summer enrollment and the budget and policy agenda necessary to do so. The October meeting explored the status quo in summer school operations (the number and type of courses offered, tuition and fee prices in summer versus fall and spring, the type of faculty teaching, and services available to students). In November, the committee discussed reforms necessary to expand the availability and accessibility of summer courses.

The committee's ongoing analysis and policy development related to summer enrollment shaped the Board of Governors' legislative agenda for the 2019-21 biennium. That legislative agenda included a request for the state to fund in-person, undergraduate credit hours delivered during the summer and a request for summer scholarships designed to encourage more students to enroll in summer courses. In January, the committee met to review those budget requests prior to voting on the full legislative agenda.

In March, the committee met to review preliminary plans for expanding summer enrollment drafted by the constituent universities.

2. Mental Health

In May 2019, the committee hosted an information session on the state of mental health among UNC System students. The committee received an overview of trends in mental health among college-age Americans from Dr. Robert Bashford of the UNC School of Medicine and Dr. Allen O'Barr, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at UNC-Chapel Hill. The committee then heard presentations from a panel of campus-based practitioners at North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T, and UNC School of the Arts.

AGENDA ITEM

A-3. Review of Student Success Trends and Update on Committee Initiatives..... Andrew Kelly

Situation: The BOG Committee on Strategic Initiatives has spent the past two years focused on opportunities to improve student success and timely degree completion. The focus on student success reflects the UNC System Strategic Plan, which calls for significant gains in degree completion. To provide context for the committee's ongoing work on student success, Andrew Kelly will present data on student success trends in the UNC System and provide an update on key committee initiatives.

Background: Many factors affect a student's ability to complete a college degree in a timely fashion. Some factors relate to student choices and behavior, while other factors are outside of the student's control, like state, federal, and institutional policies, practices, and programs.

Institutions and policymakers have learned a good deal about the ways in which policies, programs, and student choices can help or hinder student success. Policies governing credit acceptance and transfer, degree requirements, financial aid eligibility, and the availability and accessibility of the courses students need to graduate can create obstacles to timely degree completion. In addition, trends in behavioral health among college students pose new challenges for university faculty and staff.

In this session, Andrew Kelly will review the latest data on student success in the UNC System and provide an update on the committee's work to date. His presentation will touch on various factors that the Committee on Strategic Initiatives might consider as it works to identify and implement policy reforms and programs that can increase student success.

Assessment: Andrew Kelly will examine the key issues related to student success and present the latest data on student success in the UNC System

Action: This item is for information only.

AGENDA ITEM

A-4. Discussion on Potential Topics for 2019-20 Rob Bryan

Situation: The BOG Committee on Strategic Initiatives has spent the past two years focused on opportunities to improve student success and timely degree completion. Rob Bryan will lead the committee in a discussion of potential issues to tackle over the course of the 2019-20 session.

Background: Over the past two years, the BOG Committee on Strategic Initiatives has focused on identifying opportunities to improve student success and timely degree completion. The committee has made important changes to System policies on undergraduate degree program requirements and credit acceptance policies for Advanced Placement exam scores. Last year, the committee focused attention on how the System can leverage summer enrollment to help more students earn a degree on-time. The committee's work on summer school was reflected in the Board's budget and policy priorities for the 2019-21 legislative session, which included request for summer enrollment funding and summer scholarships.

After a discussion of student success trends and a review of committee initiatives, Rob Bryan will lead the committee in a discussion of potential topics to consider over the course of the 2019-20 session.

Assessment: Rob Bryan will lead the committee in a discussion of potential topics to consider over the course of the 2019-20 session.

Action: This item is for discussion only.