

## MINUTES

January 21, 2021

University of North Carolina

Center for School Leadership Development, Board Room

Via Videoconference and UNC-TV Live Stream

### Call to Order

The Board of Governors met on January 21, 2021, in-person and by videoconference. Chair Ramsey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He thanked the staff for all their hard work in preparing for and organizing the meetings. He reminded the members that the day's meeting would be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act that apply during states of emergency and that allow for public bodies to meet via electronic means. The law requires, however, that all votes are to be taken by roll call. He reminded the members that all chats, instant messages, texts, or other written communications between members of the Board regarding the transaction of the public business during the remote meeting are deemed a public record.

### Invocation

Chair Ramsey called on Mr. Holmes to give the invocation.

### Roll Call

Secretary McCullen called the roll. The following members were present:

W. Louis Bissette, Jr.	Terry Hutchens
Kellie Hunt Blue	W. Marty Kotis, III
C. Philip Byers	Steven B. Long
Jimmy D. Clark	J. Alex Mitchell
Carolyn Coward	Wendy Floyd Murphy
N. Leo Daughtry	Anna Spangler Nelson
Thomas C. Goolsby	R. Doyle Parrish
Isaiah Green	Art Pope
Reginald Ronald Holley	David Powers
James L. Holmes, Jr.	Randy Ramsey
Mark Holton	Dwight D. Stone

The following members were absent:

Pearl Burris-Floyd	Michael Williford
Temple Sloan	

Chair Ramsey 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.

### President's Report

President Hans welcomed the arrival of a new year and a new season of hope. He is confident that the development of effective vaccines and the treatments – whose research has been conducted at some of our universities right here in North Carolina – will help bring an end to the pandemic and back get us back to normal soon. He spoke

about how the constituent institutions are opening community clinics at campuses across the state and offering vaccines in partnership with local health systems. This action is a reminder that our institutions not only serve students but also serve as a resource for the state. President Hans also spoke about the important work of the UNC System Racial Equity Task Force. For his complete report, please see Appendix A.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

Chair Ramsey referred to the consent agenda items listed as Item 4 on the day's consent agenda.

#### Minutes

- a. Minutes of December 17, 2020

#### Committee on Budget and Finance

- b. Non-Appropriated Capital Improvement Project – UNC Wilmington Appendix B
- c. Capital Improvement Project – N.C. A&T State University Appendix C

#### Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

- d. UNC System Academic Program Actions Appendix D
- e. Licensure Program Approvals Appendix E

**Motion:** Resolved, that the Board of Governors approve the consent agenda items listed on the day's meeting as described above.

**Motion:** R. Doyle Parrish

**Motion carried** (Roll Call vote taken; see Appendix H)

### **Report of the Committee on Budget and Finance**

Mr. Holmes, chair of the committee, reported that the committee discussed the student activities fee. He noted that current students – Melanie Flowers from NC State University, Ryan Collins from UNC Chapel Hill, and Isaiah Green from UNC Asheville, participated in the meeting in person. Members of the council of student body presidents within the UNC System also joined the meeting.

Next, the committee received a preview of the 2021-22 tuition and fee proposals, which will be considered by the full Board for a vote at its next meeting. The committee discussed an increase to the campus security fee and the needs surrounding law enforcement salaries, training, and protective equipment. The committee voted to increase the campus security fee from \$30 to \$60, subject to the 3 percent statutory cap. The item will be brought to the full Board for approval at its next meeting. The committee also heard a report on the General Fund Update.

The committee heard an update on the federal lending COVID-19 stimulus package, which will provide over \$287 million in federal stimulus to the UNC System's constituent institutions. The committee also received an update on the 2021-23 Budget Priorities that were approved in November 2020. The final details of the request, including enrollment funding for individual institutions, revised building reserve figures, and additional information related to the four University's budget priorities, were presented.

Mr. Holmes reported that the committee reviewed a request for one non-appropriated capital improvement project for the University of North Carolina Wilmington (see Appendix B). The committee approved the request and placed the item on the day's consent agenda. The committee reviewed a request for one new capital improvement project at North Carolina A&T State University (see Appendix C). The committee approved the request and placed the item on the day's consent agenda.

In closing, Mr. Holmes stated that an update from the Task Force on Pricing, Flexibility, and Affordability, would be provided at its next meeting.

#### **Report of the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs**

Mrs. Nelson, vice chair of the committee, reported that the committee reviewed and approved the following: the establishment of two academic degree programs – 1). Master of Science in Planning and Development at East Carolina University and 2). Ph.D. in Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at N.C. A&T State University; and the discontinuation of one academic degree program – the Education Specialist degree in Educational Leadership at University of North Carolina at Greensboro (see Appendix D). The committee also reviewed four licensure program approvals along with one limited license (see Appendix E). The committee voted to place these items on the day's consent agenda.

Next, the committee heard an update on reopening plans for the campuses, expected enrollment totals, and course-delivery methods across the System's constituent institutions. Mrs. Nelson recalled that a pause was placed on the submission of new academic program establishments during the pandemic. Following discussion of the review process, program submissions were being accepted under the post-review instituted guidelines. The committee also heard a presentation developed by the UNC System Office on designing effective online courses and received the annual report on the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.

In closing, Mrs. Nelson called on Dr. Timothy Ives, chair of the UNC Faculty Assembly, for his report. Dr. Ives spoke about the faculty becoming involved in several UNC System's initiatives including, the racial equity task force, common course numbering initiative, and designing effective online courses initiative. These are important elements which are essential to enhancing student success. He thanked President Hans for his commitment and support of these initiatives. Dr. Ives also spoke about the importance of expanding the UNC Faculty Fellows Leadership Program.

#### **Report of the Committee on University Governance**

Mr. Powers, chair of the committee, reported that the committee discussed a vacancy on the Liability Insurance Trust Fund Council. Mr. Powers explained that the Board of Governors appoints the general counsel of the University of North Carolina or another staff member from the Office of Legal Affairs as a member of the council. President Hans recommended that Mr. Andrew Tripp, senior vice president and general counsel, be appointed to fill the vacancy on the council that was held by the previous general counsel.

**Motion:** Resolved, that the Board accept the recommendation to appoint Mr. Andrew Tripp to the Liability Insurance Trust Fund Council

**Motion:** Mr. David Powers

**Motion carried** (Roll Call vote taken; see Appendix H)

Next, Mr. Powers reported on a partial-term vacancy at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, which was effective January 1, 2021, and ending on June 30, 2021. The committee recommended the appointment of Margaret Benjamin to fill the partial-term vacancy. Her biographical information is available in the Board materials.

**Motion:** Resolved, that the Board accept the recommendation to appoint Ms. Margaret Benjamin to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy as described above.

**Motion:** Mr. David Powers

**Motion carried** (Roll Call vote taken; see Appendix H)

The committee reviewed Section 300.1.3 of the UNC Policy Manual– *Attorney Licensing*. The committee voted to repeal the policy to avoid duplication of the language, which is currently apart of Section 200.5 – *Policy on Legal Affairs; Initiating and Settling Potential and Pending Litigation*. The item will be brought to the full Board for approval through consent agenda at its next meeting.

In closing, Mr. Powers spoke about the important role in the nomination process and the calendar for the Board of Governors nominating candidates to boards of trustees' positions. The committee will review a full list of boards of trustees' nominations at its meeting in April 2021.

#### **Report of the Committee on Public Affairs**

Mr. Byers, chair of the committee, reported that the committee reviewed activities that had taken place since its last meeting in November 2020. The committee heard an update from the University Advancement staff on donor and alumni engagement, fiscal year 2020 fundraising activities, and the next phase of the System-wide data modernization and shared services project.

Mr. Byers recalled that the Board approved the 2021 UNC Policy Agenda in November 2020. The committee reviewed and approved two additional items to be added to the 2021 UNC Policy Agenda, including HR flexibilities and the request for the elimination of eight reporting requirements to the General Assembly. The committee voted to approve the two legislative updates (see Appendix F). Mr. Byers mentioned that the regular session of the North Carolina General Assembly opened last week, January 13, 2021.

The committee heard an update on federal relations. Ms. Morra, vice president for federal relations, provided details about the pandemic relief package and the appropriations bill, which Congress passed prior to the holidays. She also discussed items included in the federal veterans' health care and benefits bill that was signed into law last month.

Finally, the committee reviewed the UNC System's Federal Priorities for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, which includes federal research funding, legislation to expand access, affordability and student success, and the ongoing need for federal support for the UNC System during the pandemic. This item will be presented to the full Board for approval at its meeting.

#### **Report of the Committee on Audit, Risk Management, and Compliance**

Mr. Holton, chair of the committee, reported that the committee discussed the recent establishment of the Risk Review Board at the System Office, designed to provide leadership and guidance related to risk tolerance and risk treatment. The Risk Review Board will meet periodically, and the committee will receive updates on its efforts. The committee heard a report on the corrective actions taken in response to an information systems' audit that was conducted by the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor. The System Office has taken action to address the auditor's recommendations. The committee also heard an update on the status of internal audit activities at the UNC System Office.

Next, the committee received a presentation pertaining to campus safety and security and the challenges of recruiting and retaining law enforcement officers at our System's institutions. The lack of competitive pay was a focal point for recruiting and retaining talent. The committee will continue discussion on this topic at its next meeting including, compensation for campus police officers.

Lastly, the committee received an update on the status of implementation of Section 1300.7.1 of the UNC Policy Manual – *Policy on Insurance Coverage*. The policy requires all UNC System institutions to maintain sufficient minimum insurance coverage consistent with institutional operations and industry standards effective January 1, 2021. The policy allows campuses to request limited exceptions from the minimum coverage standards. The UNC

System Office along with the institutions will follow a process to request and review any exceptions. The committee voted to approve the process.

### **Report of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives**

Mrs. Coward, chair of the committee, reported that the committee held a discussion regarding innovation in higher education. Mr. Gates Bryant from Tyton Partners, an education advisory firm, provided the committee with an overview of key trends in innovation that will shape the future of higher education over the next decade. Mr. Bryant provided ideas for the committee to examine in future discussions, including the opportunities to leverage the System platform to help universities expand online programs, target healthcare as a potential area for program development, and to partner with employers to develop and fund new programs. The committee will continue further discussion on these ideas over the next few months.

### **Special Order**

Chair Ramsey asked Mr. Byers, chair of Committee on Public Affairs, to return to the podium to present a motion that was overlooked during his report of the Committee on Public Affairs.

Mr. Byers explained that the Board would need to vote on updates to the 2021 Legislative Proposal (see Appendix F).

**Motion:** Resolved, that on behalf of the Committee on Public Affairs, the Board vote to approve two additional items to be added to the 2021 Legislative Proposal, including HR flexibilities and the request for the elimination of eight reporting requirements to the General Assembly.

**Motion:** Mr. C. Philip Byers

**Motion carried** (Roll Call vote taken; see Appendix H)

### **Report of the Committee on Historically Minority-Serving Institutions (HMSIs)**

Mr. Holley, chair of the committee, reported that the committee reviewed the work of the committee over the past months. Next, the committee reviewed informational reports related to ongoing projects, including a presentation by Dr. Jeff Warren, executive director of the NC Policy Collaboratory. The NC Policy Collaboratory partnered with the UNC System's six HMSIs to initiate COVID-19 projects. Dr. Warren reported that freezers used to store COVID-19 vaccines were being distributed to all six HMSI institutions. The vaccine freezers will allow HMSIs to continue their work during the pandemic and assist with getting vaccines to underserved and rural communities throughout the state. The committee also heard an update on the Executive Leadership Institute.

### **Chair's Report**

Chair Ramsey spoke about a range of topics including campus safety, which is a top priority of the Board. The Board will continue conversations on best strategies for recruiting and retaining law enforcement officers in a challenging environment. Next, he remarked on the continued efforts and hard work our chancellors and campuses are doing in handling COVID-19. Chair Ramsey spoke about the amount of COVID-19 testing being done on the campuses and how the UNC System is collaborating with the NC Department of Health and Human Services and other health care systems across the state to open and operate vaccination sites. The Chair recognized the members of the Racial Equity Task Force for their diligent work and dedication to identifying issues.

In closing, Chair Ramsey reported that the Committee on Budget and Finance will convene an intermittent meeting in the coming weeks to discuss student tuition and fees for the next academic year. He encouraged all members to attend. He noted that with the start of the legislative long session, financial uncertainty will remain amid the pandemic and the university is committed to doing its part.

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Chair Ramsey called on Vice Chair Murphy for a motion to go into closed session.

**Motion:** Resolved, that the Board 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 its attorney to protect attorney-client privilege; and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, or condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1), (3), and (6) (see Appendix G).

**Motion:** Wendy Floyd Murphy

**Motion seconded:** James L. Holmes

**Motion carried** (Roll Call vote taken; see Appendix G)

The Board went into closed session at 10:35 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:57 a.m.

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#### **Report of the Committee on Personnel and Tenure**

Mrs. Blue, chair of the committee, reported that the committee received a report on the post tenure review process. The committee heard an update on human resources-related topics including, COVID-19 and the development of a new University teleworking policy.

Mrs. Blue reported that planning was underway to update various EHRA non-faculty salary ranges. In addition, work is progressing on development of a new classification and compensation system for the University System's campus police officers.

In closing, she reported that the committee reviewed a report on recent salary increase requests. The report reflected a decrease in salary activity as compared to last year resulting from the pause in non-essential human resources actions due to the pandemic. The committee also reviewed routine informational reports, which were available on the Board portal.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m. The next meeting of the Board of Governors is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021, at the UNC Center for School Leadership Development in Chapel Hill.

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Wendy Floyd Murphy, Vice Chair

## **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	President Hans' Report
Appendix B	Non-Appropriated Capital Improvement Project – UNC Wilmington
Appendix C	Capital Improvement Project – N.C. A&T State University
Appendix D	UNC System Academic Program Actions
Appendix E	Licensure Program Approvals
Appendix F	UNC System 2021 Legislative Proposal Amendment
Appendix G	Closed Session Motion
Appendix H	Roll Call Vote