

**North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University  
Greensboro, NC**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2020**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

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**OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Venessa Harrison called the special called meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:02 a.m. on February 7, 2020.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

In accordance with Chapter II, Section 204 of the Code of the UNC Board of Governors, Chairwoman Harrison called for the presentation of the Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Statement via an audio recording. No conflicts were noted.

**ROLL CALL**

Next, roll call was taken by Shannon Bennett, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees. Quorum was confirmed.

Members present: John Bluford, Calvin Brodie, Mark Copeland, William Dudley, Kim Gatling, Venessa Harrison, Paul Jones, Timothy King, George Mainor, Joe Parker, Hilda Pinnix-Ragland, Bhaskar Venepalli and Allison Gilmore.

Members absent: None.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Chairwoman Harrison invited Chancellor Martin to present the proposed State Budget Resolution.

Chancellor Martin informed the board that at the request of the Board of Governors, the university is recommending that the board of trustees adopt a resolution calling on elected leaders to enact a state budget that supports the constituent institutions of the UNC System, including North Carolina A&T State University.

Chancellor Martin further advised that House Bill 966, includes \$7,500,000 in funding for N.C. A&T's designation as a Carnegie R-2 "high research" activity doctoral university; \$1,640,710 in required state matching funds for N.C. A&T's Agriculture Research and Cooperative Extension federal grants; and \$18,500,000 in Renovation and Repairs for Carver Hall at N.C. A&T

Chairwoman Harrison invited a motion to approve the State Budget Resolution, which was moved by Trustee Kim Gatling, seconded by Trustee Hilda Pinnix-Ragland, and unanimously approved.

Chairwoman Harrison invited Trustee Timothy King to present the recommendation of the Assessment Committee.

Trustee King informed the board that the Athletics Conference Assessment Committee, after a thorough review, recommends that North Carolina A&T State University inform the Mid-Eastern Athletics Conference of the university's resignation from full conference membership, effective June 30, 2021.

Trustee King further advised that the committee recommends that the university inform the Big South Athletics Conference of its acceptance of their invitation to join the conference as full members, effective July 1, 2021.

Trustee King noted that the primary driver for this change is enhanced opportunities for student-athlete academic success, student-athlete welfare, and augmenting the student-athlete college experience. This is driven by time considerations around travel and competition schedules as it will result in less travel and classes missed for athletes which should result in improved graduation rates and GPA, metrics that are critical to the success of the university.

Trustee King added that this decision is based on sound financial principles, and reflects our desire to be good stewards of our resources for current and future students, as well as boosters and alumni who support A&T Athletics. This is the result of reduced travel and competition expenditures.

Finally, Trustee King advised that this is a lateral move from a budget perspective, but a vertical move from an athletics perspective – we have budget parity with the schools in the Big South but will have to stretch a bit to be competitive in some sports in the Big South.

Chairwoman Harrison invited a motion to approve the recommendation of the Assessment Committee, which was moved by Trustee Hilda Pinnix-Ragland, seconded by Trustee Kim Gatling, and approved. Trustee Paul Jones did not vote to affirm the recommendation.

Trustee Jones cited history, culture, and legacy as reasons for voting against the recommendation.

Chairwoman Harrison invited a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was moved by Trustee Mark Copeland, seconded by Trustee Calvin Brodie, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Bennett  
Assistant Secretary