



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Greensboro, North Carolina
University Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 10, 2023
Alumni Foundation Events Center
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees (BOT) University Affairs Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on November 10, 2023, by Trustee Paul L. Jones.

Trustee Jones welcomed committee members and guests and thanked them for their attendance.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Trustees Paul Jones, Kimberly Gatling, Mark Copeland, Gina Loftin, Gregg Lowe, and Jasmine Amaniampong, Ex-officio member, Provost Tonya Smith-Jackson, Committee Guest, Faculty Senate Chair, Scott Harrison.

Other attendees included: Melissa Holloway, J.D, General Counsel and Vice Chancellor Of Division Of Legal Affairs, Risk And Compliance; Jonathan Martin, J.D., Transformation Lead, Madeline Martinez, Interim Associate Director, Center for Academic Excellence, Regina Williams Davis, Associate Vice Provost for Student Success and Interim University Registrar; Catherine Dinitra White, Associate Professor of Biology; Chantal Fleming, Executive Director of TRIO Programs; Craig Rhodes, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Eric Muth, Vice Chancellor for Division of Research and Economic Development; Timothy Minor, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships; Clay Gloster, Vice Provost for Graduate Research and Dean of the Graduate College; Earl Hilton, Director of Athletics; Wanda Payton, Special Assistant to the Provost and Recorder;

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

In accordance with Chapter II, Section 204 of the Code of the UNC Board of Governors, Trustee Jones asked members to silently read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement which was displayed on the screen. He then asked if there were any conflicts. There were no conflicts noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Jones entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of the Board of Trustees University Affairs Committee held on September 22, 2023. **A motion was made by Trustee Copeland and seconded by Trustee Loftin. The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.**

WELCOME AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS PRIORITIES

Provost Smith-Jackson gave an overview of the alignment of the 2030 blueprint with research expansion and student success initiatives. She shared the framework for research expansion that was discussed with the UAC last year (2022). The framework is being re-organized to align across multiple units within and outside of Academic Affairs in order to focus not only on culture change, what we think and say, but climate change, what we do.

DIVISIONAL/DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

I. Division of Academic Affairs

- a. The Aggie Experience: The Transformation Initiative Lead, Jonathan Martin, and the Transformation Officer, Madeline Brown gave an overview of the Aggie Train-the-Trainer Program and the foundational link to the Aggie Experience. They shared the details of the extensive customer service training of the Aggie Trainers, the required Trainer certification, and the creation of action items across 5 committees. The Trainer Program action items are integrated with student-facing functional groups to improve customer service and enhance student success.
- b. Becoming a Culturally Responsive R1 Institution: Dr. Eric Muth shared that the UNC System budget formula focuses on new sponsored programs awards (all grants and contracts activity), and that the Carnegie formula focuses on sponsored research and development expenditures. The Carnegie classification of R1 is moving away from a complex formula to a simple threshold (>\$50M R&D expenditures and >70 PhD graduates annually). Dr. Muth suggested that taking a balanced approach that integrates students into the research enterprise is our ultimate formula for success.
- c. Endowed / Distinguished Professor Update: Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Craig Rhodes, shared an update on the total number of endowed and distinguished professors at NCAT by college. He shared the State Legislator's new guideline for matching dollars in STEM areas for both current and future endowed and distinguished professorships. Dr. Rhodes also shared the total matched dollar amounts for STEM and non-STEM endowments and distinguished professorships at NCAT.
- d. Student Success Update: Regina Williams-Davis, Catherine White, Chantal Fleming, and Madeline Martinez from the University Student Success Office shared that they are seeing a strong comeback in student success measures in retention, general education course completion rate, and the four-year graduation rate. The USSO is using the framework to address opportunities to continue improving student success outcomes. The Center for Academic Excellence completed the hiring of 16 new academic advisors who are assigned to colleges based on caseloads of new freshmen and new transfer students. Cohorts consist of approximately 200 students per advisor. This helps reduce the academic advising caseloads currently assigned to faculty which, in turn, alleviates time constraints related to actively engaging in research, which is of critical importance as we move toward R1 status.
The TRIO Programs are academic programs funded by the Department of Education and were designed to assist eligible students to begin and complete a post-secondary education. TRIO programs provide academic tutoring, academic coaching and guidance, mentoring, financial literacy guidance, and other supports necessary for educational access and retention. N.C. A&T State University hosts 4 TRIO Programs: 2 Precollege programs: TRIO Upward Bound & TRIO Talent Search & 2 Postsecondary programs: TRIO Student Support Services & TRIO Ronald McNair.
The PPSP initiated by Chancellor Harold Martin and former Provost Alton Thompson, under the leadership of Dr. Dinitra White have developed 9 official professional, graduate pathway programs to include 3-premedical, 2-prelaw, 1-pre dental, and 3 pre-allied health. Three additional programs in pharmacy and medicine are under development. Some PPSP highlights are: (a) the early Assurance Scholars Premedical Program; and (b) the Accelerated Pathway to Law School Program.
- e. Graduate Student Success Programs Update: Dean Gloster shared that the Graduate College hired two new administrators, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs to promote student success. The Graduate College

initiated the purchase of a new software dashboard to monitor graduate student progress. Other student success initiatives completed include: partnering with the University Writing Center of theses/dissertation writing events, offering professional development workshops for graduate students and postdoctoral research fellows, and working with an external vendor to provide mentors to Ph.D. students.

- f. Athletics Update: Earl Hilton, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics shared a summary of the annual Chancellor's Council on Intercollegiate Athletics report with the UAC. Each of you has a copy of the full CCIA report in your meeting material.
- The CCIA is charged to ensure that: the University maintains Independent oversight of the university's intercollegiate athletics department; the Chancellor is advised on matters of intercollegiate athletics through representation by the Council's chairperson; the athletics department is in compliance with all NCAA, CAA, and UNC System guidelines, policies and regulations governing intercollegiate athletic programs of the university; there is fiscal accountability in the receipt and disbursement of athletic funds regardless of source; there is proper academic certification of student-athletes and adequate monitoring of progress towards completion of their degrees; and the athletics department has developed, implemented, and maintained plans that protect and enhance gender equity, diversity, and student athletes' welfare.
- It is the opinion of the CCIA Chair that Intercollegiate Athletics has experienced continuous improvement, annually, under the current administration. The overall health of the program is good and continuing to improve. If the public or the media were to take a close look at the program, there would be a lot of accomplishments about which to be proud. There are challenges, but none of the challenges stem from malfeasance or gross negligence. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics continues to operate in substantial conformity with the rules, policies, and practices of the UNC System, the Coastal Athletics Association, and the NCAA.

II. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Trustee Jones entertained a motion to enter closed session. A motion was made by Trustee Copeland and seconded by Trustee Loften.
- b. A motion was made to enter open session by Student Trustee Lowe and seconded by Trustee Copeland.

OPEN SESSION

- a. Trustee Jones entertained a motion to approve the personnel matters as discussed in closed session. A motion was made by Trustee Loften and seconded by Student Trustee Amaniampong.

III. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Trustee Jones thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.