The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Board of Trustees

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
Bioinformatics 301
Friday, February 13, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Present
Dhiaa M. Jamil, Chair
Catherine P. Bessant
Martin L. Brackett (via conference call)

Staff/Guests in Attendance
Kathy Fair, Board of Trustees Liaison, UNC Greensboro
Art Jackson, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Joan Lorden, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Jay Raja, Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Interim Dean of the Library
Gregory Starrett, Faculty Council Chair
Jennifer Ward, Liaison to the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor’s Cabinet
Bob Wilhelm, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development

Call to Order. Mr. Jamil called the meeting to order and reminded Committee members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under the State Government Ethics Act, in accordance with Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes, and advised the Committee members to notify him immediately if anyone should become aware of a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest during the meeting. No conflicts were reported.

Approval of Minutes. Mr. Jamil requested action on the minutes of the December 4, 2014, Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting.

Action. On a motion by Ms. Bessant, seconded by Mr. Brackett, the Committee approved the December 4, 2014, Committee meeting minutes.

Mr. Brackett left the meeting.

Research and Economic Development Orientation. Dr. Wilhelm summarized UNC Charlotte’s role in economic development in the Charlotte region and highlighted the alignment of the University’s research and academic programs with regional economic interests such as healthcare,
biotech, energy, big data and analytics, finance, motorsports, defense, and aerospace. Dr. Wilhelm reported that 65 percent of UNC Charlotte graduates of tech-related programs choose to live and work in the Charlotte area after graduation. Dr. Wilhelm stated that the Motorsports Program is growing steadily, and that approximately 10 percent of all NASCAR engineers are UNC Charlotte graduates. Dr. Wilhelm also stated that 40 students will graduate from the Master of Business Administration program with a concentration in Energy. Dr. Wilhelm also noted that the research consortium in which the University participates has attracted forty-seven corporate partners, all of which fund research in exchange for the opportunity to partner with universities in the consortium and thirty-six of which are in dedicated UNC Charlotte partnerships. Dr. Wilhelm noted that such partnerships help draw outstanding faculty to the University and create unparalleled opportunities for students to work on real-world projects. Dr. Wilhelm also stated that the number of UNC Charlotte patent applications is rising because of these partnerships.

Dr. Wilhelm noted that UNC Charlotte’s high-tech research and programs consistently earn the University a ranking as one of the top five U.S. schools significantly impacting technology transfer. Dr. Wilhelm discussed the role of Ventureprise, which this year will engage approximately 150 new ventures and serve more than 1,100 small businesses. Dr. Wilhelm also described current economic development recruiting, which has helped bring companies focused on robotics, specialty chemicals, and the automotive industry to the Charlotte area.

Ms. Bessant stated that she looks forward to the release of an economic impact report that the UNC General Administration recently commissioned, and she noted that she has been surprised by how little the local business community understands about UNC Charlotte’s economic value to the region. Dr. Wilhelm stated that national awareness of the potential role of universities has improved slowly over the last decade, and that potential partners now routinely contact UNC Charlotte and evaluate intellectual resources when they choose where to locate or relocate. Mr. Jamil asked how UNC Charlotte’s economic impact compares to that of other UNC system universities. Mr. Wilhelm stated that UNC Charlotte’s economic impact is estimated to be $2.1 billion but that he did not have economic impact figures for the other universities.

**Student Affairs Update.** Dr. Jackson presented a summary of major achievements in Student Affairs during 2014-2015. Dr. Jackson also reviewed future building projects, including Holshouser Hall, Laurel Hall/Phase 13, Levine Hall/Phase 14, Oak Hall, Belk Gym, and Cone Center Plaza. Dr. Jackson also reviewed several new initiatives:

- the newly created Veterans Center, home of the Veterans Services Office as well as a meeting area and study space,
- a new Title IX Office, which is charged with educating the campus community, monitoring the campus climate for issues related to Title IX, and investigating alleged cases of sexual assault and harassment;
- a $150K grant from the Governor’s Office and the UNC General Administration for alcohol education, prevention, and response efforts, including the University’s Collegiate Recovery Program; and
- a food pantry serving the needs of students, organized by Psychology Professor Dr. Kim Buch and funded by Food Lion and faculty and staff donations.

Dr. Jackson stated that the Office of Student Affairs and the Academic Affairs Division continue to work together to promote activities to increase retention and graduation rates, including the Get Connected survey for freshmen and transfer students; the Evaluating Academic Success Program
(EASE); and programs in Residence Life and Recreational Services. Dr. Jackson noted that these programs have a demonstrable, positive effect on retention.

Adjourn. There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Jamil adjourned the meeting.

Submitted:  
Joan F. Lorden  
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved:  
Dhiaa M. Jamil, Chair  
Academic and Student Affairs Committee