Minutes

Present
Dhiaa Jamil, Chair
Martin L. Brackett, Vice Chair
Catherine P. Bessant

Absent
Marion S. Sullivan

Staff in Attendance
Ted Elling, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Amy Hawn Nelson, Director of Research, Urban Institute, and Director, Institute for Social Capital, Inc.
Joan Lorden, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Krista Newkirk, Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary to the Board
Jay Raja, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
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 of interest were reported.

Approval of Minutes. Mr. Jamil requested action on the April 3, 2014, and July 15, 2014, Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

Action. On a motion by Mr. Brackett, seconded by Ms. Bessant, the Committee approved the April 3, 2014, and July 15, 2014, meeting minutes.

Research and Economic Development Spotlight. Dr. Wilhelm presented an overview of research at UNC Charlotte that draws researchers from across the country, including six research consortia that are focused on cyber security, robotics, sustainable building systems, optoelectric materials, metrology, and free form optics. Dr. Wilhelm also described the University’s ongoing social science research, which he said is often interdisciplinary in nature and spans both departments and colleges. Dr. Wilhelm introduced Amy Hawn Nelson, Director of the Urban Institute and the Institute for Social Capital (ISC), which conducts interdisciplinary social science research. The ISC is guided by a board
whose members represent the leadership of agencies that contribute data and thought leaders in the community.

Dr. Hawn Nelson noted that the purpose of the ISC is to advance research and increase the community’s capacity for data-based planning. Dr. Hawn Nelson explained that the ISC database is an integrated data system that allows researchers to use administrative, longitudinal data to conduct research focused on community improvement. The ISC is one of eleven U.S. institutes providing the opportunity to do meaningful research across multiple data sets from public agencies and non-profit organizations. The large data sets allow researchers to answer important community questions. Dr. Hawn Nelson indicated that partnerships for data sharing are either in place or in progress with twenty social service, educational, and government agencies, including Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, Central Piedmont Community College, the Charlotte Housing Authority, and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office.

Dr. Hawn Nelson provided examples of three current studies being conducted with the ISC, including Describing Incarcerated Young Adults in Mecklenburg County (funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation), Collective Impact for Children and Youth (funded by the United Way of Central Carolinas), and Describing Pathways to Disengagement and to Success for Black Males (funded by the UNC Charlotte Office of Academic Affairs).

**National Survey of Student Engagement.** Dr. Lorden discussed the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which provides national benchmarking data on students’ high-impact academic and social engagement practices campus-wide, in the classroom, and within support programs. Dr. Lorden noted that NSSE data have been found to be predictive of student success in higher education. Dr. Lorden introduced Dr. Ted Elling, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Principal Investigator for NSSE. Using the most recent NSSE data, Dr. Elling presented an overview of UNC Charlotte’s performance compared to its peer institutions, including doctoral research universities and doctoral research universities with a high percentage of transfer students. Dr. Elling stated that preliminary results show that UNC Charlotte is faring well in student-faculty interaction and students working together outside of class. Dr. Elling noted that these gains can be attributed in part to the course redesign program in the Center for Teaching and Learning, in which large course sections are redesigned to allow for more student interaction, and to the new group study spaces in Atkins Library. Dr. Elling also stated that, in comparison to its peers, UNC Charlotte has opportunities to increase the academic and social engagement of transfer students. Dr. Elling noted that the NSSE is administered every two years to new, entering freshmen students and graduating seniors.

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

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Joan F. Lorden  
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  

Approved:

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Dhiaa Jamil  
Chair  
Academic and Student Affairs Committee  
