UNC CHAPEL HILL

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Board of Trustees

Audit, Compliance, and Enterprise Risk Management Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 8:00–9:30 a.m.
Via Zoom Video Conference

Open Session

Present
Susan DeVore, Acting Chair
Dennis Bunker III
Christine Katziff
David Mildenberg
Michael Wilson, ex officio

Absent:
Theresa Drew, Chair

Staff/Guests in Attendance
Sharon Gaber, Chancellor
Kim Bradley, Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Anne Brown, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance
Susan Burgess, Chief Compliance Officer
Tina Dadio, University Public Records Officer/Paralegal
Steven Dunham, Chief Risk Officer
David Ehrich, Assistant State Auditor Supervisor, Office of the State Auditor
Beth Hardin, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs
Jesh Humphrey, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel
Melva Jenkins, Administrative Liaison for University Governance
Joan Lorden, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Michelle Reinken, Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Amanda Simpson, Paralegal
Darin Spease, Deputy Athletic Director
Natasha Stracener, Video Technology Communications/Classroom Support
Greg Verret, Director of Treasury Services
Jennifer Walker, Chief Audit Officer
Laura Williams, University Controller

Call to Order. Ms. DeVore 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 and advised Committee members to notify her 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. Ms. DeVore requested action on the December 8, 2020, Audit, Compliance, and Enterprise Risk Management Committee meeting minutes.

Action. On a motion by Ms. Katziff, seconded by Mr. Mildenberg, the Committee unanimously approved the December 8, 2020, Audit, Compliance, and Enterprise Risk Management Committee minutes.

Report on 2019-2020 External Audits. Ms. DeVore welcomed Ms. Brown, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Verret from the University. Ms. DeVore also welcomed Mr. Ehrich from the Office of the State Auditor. Mr. Ehrich reported the State Auditor’s office completed the FY20 financial statement audit for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Mr. Ehrich presented an unmodified (clean) opinion of the University’s financial statements, concluding that they were fairly stated and that no findings resulted from the audit. Mr. Ehrich noted that the audit process went very smoothly due to the cooperation and efforts of the University’s financial team. Mr. Ehrich also noted that the quality of the University’s documentation and cooperation is in the very top tier across the UNC System and thanked the University team for their excellent work. Mr. Ehrich indicated that the state’s audit report was issued on November 18, 2020, and it can be found on the State auditor’s website.

Mr. Verret stated that the FY20 financial statement audits for the Foundation of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the Athletic Foundation of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Facilities Development Corporation, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Investment Fund, and Ventureprise, Inc. were completed by external auditors, and that all audits received were unmodified (clean) opinions with no findings.

Ms. Williams reported that as with all NCAA-member institutions, UNC Charlotte is required to submit financial data detailing operating revenues and expenses related to its intercollegiate athletics program to the NCAA on an annual basis. This financial data is subject to “agreed-upon procedures” performed by a qualified independent accountant. Ms. Williams reported that the Independent Accountant’s Report on Agreed-Upon Procedures was returned with no findings for the University. Mr. Spease noted that there were some impacts including ticket sales, COVID testing and travel accommodations resulting from the pandemic.

Internal Audit Update. Ms. Walker provided the Internal Audit update for the FY21 Audit Plan and a summary of internal audit reports issued this period, with no major findings reported. Ms. Walker reviewed the Internal Audit Findings Exception Report and reported that because of priority shifts due to the pandemic, the building access reviews that were expected to be completed by December 31, 2020, are now expected to be completed by February 28, 2021.

Ms. Walker indicated that the Internal Audit staff has completed the Annual Code of Ethics Certification disclosing any potential or perceived conflicts of interest. Ms. Walker reported that the only potential conflict of interest disclosed was that the Senior Internal Auditor had transferred from the College of Health and Human Services on February 3, 2020. Ms. Walker reported that there are no audits scheduled in this area for FY21 and noted that, should an audit be scheduled in this area for FY22, the Senior Internal Auditor would not be involved.

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Compliance Update. Ms. Burgess provided the Committee a University Ethics and Compliance update. Ms. Burgess reported on three primary compliance activities: 1) UNC Charlotte’s report to the U.S. Department of Education containing information about gifts received from any foreign source; 2) her completed review of UNC Charlotte’s compliance with U.S. Department of Education consumer information disclosure obligations, and 3) her ongoing review of university positions with occupational licensure requirements, which she anticipates completing by the end of this month. Ms. Burgess is also chairing the search for the University’s biosafety officer position, which is nearing its conclusion.

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Update. Mr. Dunham provided the Committee with an update on the University’s Enterprise Risk Management program, addressing enterprise risks and key strategic objectives. Mr. Dunham provided an overview of ERM activities including an example of ERM in action with an assessment of the University’s risk management approach to peaceful campus demonstrations, and outlined his work plan for 2021.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session. Ms. DeVore called for a motion to convene in closed session.

Action. On a motion by Mr. Mildenberg, seconded by Mr. Bunker, the Board convened in closed session pursuant to the following General Statutes of the State of North Carolina:

a. N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(1), to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the laws of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes, such privilege or confidentiality arising under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. §1232g) or N.C.G.S. Ch. 126, Art. 7; and
b. N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3), to consult with and receive advice from counsel; and
c. N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6), to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual, public officer or employee, prospective public officer or employee.

Ms. DeVore excused all attendees except the Committee members, Chancellor Gaber, Ms. Burgess, Ms. Bradley, Ms. Dadio, Mr. Dunham, Ms. Hardin, Mr. Humphrey, Dr. Reinken, Ms. Simpson, and Ms. Walker.

Closed Session

Closed session minutes are filed in the office of the Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Open Session

Motion to Adjourn. Ms. DeVore requested a motion to adjourn.
Action. On a motion by Ms. Katziff, seconded by Mr. Bunker, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted:  
Jesh Humphrey  4/6/21  
Vice/Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel

Approved:  
Theresa Drew  4/8/24  
Chair  
Audit, Compliance, and Enterprise Risk Management Committee
Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 9:35–10:35 a.m.
via Zoom Video Conference

Open Session Minutes

Present
Michael L. Wilson, Chair
Dennis N. Bunker III
Susan D. DeVore
Fred W. Klein Jr.
Tahlieah K. Sampson
Teross W. Young Jr.

Absent
Theresa J. Drew
Mary Ann Rouse

Staff/Guests in Attendance
Sharon Gaber, Chancellor
Kim Bradley, Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary to the Board
Anna Clark, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Betty Doster, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Constituent Relations
Beth Hardin, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs
Jesh Humphrey, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel
Melva Jenkins, Administrative Liaison for University Governance
Madelayne Meza Leon, Video Conferencing Assistant
Joan Lorden, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Call to Order. Mr. Wilson 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. Wilson requested action on the December 8, 2020, Executive Committee meeting minutes as distributed.
Action. On a motion by Mr. Bunker, seconded by Ms. DeVore, the Committee unanimously approved the December 8, 2020, meeting minutes.

Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor of Biology. Provost Lorden reported on a revision to the Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor of Biology, explaining the changes in the professorship.

Mr. Wilson called for a motion to approve the revision of the plan to establish the Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor of Biology.

Action. On a motion by Mr. Bunker, seconded by Ms. DeVore, the Committee unanimously approved the revision of the plan to establish the Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor of Biology.

Nominating Committee. Mr. Wilson thanked Ms. Rouse for her service as Chair of the Nominating Committee for several years, though she was not able to join the today’s meeting. Mr. Wilson then announced that Ms. Katziff has graciously agreed to serve as the new committee chair, joined by Mr. Klein, and Mr. Bunker. Mr. Wilson reported that the Nominating Committee will facilitate the elections of the 2021-22 Board officers. Mr. Wilson instructed Trustees to contact the members of the committee with feedback or comments on officer nominations.

Board Self-Assessment. Mr. Wilson reminded the Committee of the extension waiver granted by the System Office for the Board self-assessment due to the timing of our transition to a new chancellor. Mr. Wilson advised that the extension expires in the fall of 2021, and since his service both as Chair of the Board and as Trustee ends on June 30, the self-assessment will fall on the watch of the 2021-22 Board officers, and he wanted to ensure that the Board begins preparation now. Mr. Wilson reported that Ms. Bradley is gathering information on potential consultants to assist with the assessment.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session. Mr. Wilson requested a motion to convene in closed session.

Action. On a motion by Mr. Bunker, seconded by Ms. Drew, the Committee convened in closed session pursuant to the following General Statutes of the State of North Carolina:

a. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6), to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; and

b. prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a)(1);

c. establish, or to instruct the public body’s staff concerning the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a)(5);
Closed Session

Closed session minutes are filed in the office of the assistance secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Open Session

Adjourn. There being no other business, Mr. Wilson adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Submitted:  
Kim S. Bradley  4/6/21
Assistant Secretary to the Board
UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees

Approved:  
Michael L. Wilson  04.06.21
Chair
UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees
Minutes

Present
Dennis N. Bunker III, Chair
Christine Katziff
David Mildenberg

Absent
Theresa Drew

Staff in Attendance
Kevin Bailey, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Pamela Broome, Principal, Niner University Elementary School
Betty Doster, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Constituent Relations
Shari Dunn, Senior Executive Assistant to the Chancellor
Katie Kavanagh, Graduate Student, Organizational Science
Joan F. Lorden, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Michael Mazzola, Executive Director, Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC)
Teresa Petty, Interim Dean, Cato College of Education
Jay Raja, Senior Associate Provost
Cheryl Waites Spellman, Interim Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion
Rick Tankersley, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development
Leslie Zenk, Assistant Provost

Call to Order. Mr. Bunker called the meeting to order and reminded members of the Committee of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts under the State Government Ethics Act in accordance with Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes and advised the Trustees to make him aware of any conflict of interest or any appearance of a conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Committee at any time during the meeting. No conflicts of interest were reported.

Approval of Minutes. Mr. Bunker requested action on the minutes of the December 8, 2020, Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting.

Action. On a motion by Mr. Mildenberg, seconded by Ms. Katziff, the Committee unanimously approved the December 8, 2020, meeting minutes.
Research Spotlight: Planning an Affordable, Resilient, and Sustainable Electric Grid in North Carolina. Dr. Tankersley introduced Dr. Mazzola who reported that in January 2018, the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) developed a proposal for the Competitive State Energy Program at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in partnership with the North Carolina State Energy Director, Duke Energy, and the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center at NC State University. Dr. Mazzola further reported that after the proposal was selected by the DOE for funding, the project began with a realization that the citizens of North Carolina are annually threatened with economic disasters from weather events, but it had the idea that smart design of a modernized electric grid could mitigate this threat. Dr. Mazzola described the progress made building a roadmap that has become North Carolina's plan for a resilient grid.

Education: Lab School Update. Provost Lorden introduced Dr. Petty and Ms. Broome. Ms. Broome reported that the Niner University Elementary (NUE) welcomed its first cohort of students in August 2020. Ms. Broome provided updates regarding enrollment, the virtual learning environment, faculty and staff, management during the COVID pandemic, and community partnerships. Ms. Broome also shared a virtual look into the physical space of NUE.

Adjourn. There being no further business before the Committee, Mr. Bunker adjourned the meeting.

Submitted:  
Joan F. Lorden  
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
4/6/2021

Approved:  
Dennis N. Bunker III  
Chair  
Academic and Student Affairs Committee  
4/6/21
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Board of Trustees

Athletics Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
Via Zoom Video Conference

Open Session Minutes

Present
Teross Young Jr., Chair
Sharon Decker
Tahlieah Sampson

Absent
Brett Keeter

Staff in Attendance
Anna Clark, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Will Healy, Head Football Coach
Mike Hill, Director of Athletics
Allison Roach, Athletic Executive Assistant

Call to Order. Mr. Young called the meeting to order and reminded members of the Committee of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts under the State Government Ethics Act in accordance with Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes and advised the Trustees to make him aware of any conflict of interest or any appearance of a conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Committee at any time during the meeting. No conflicts of interest were reported.

Approval of Minutes. Mr. Young requested action on the December 8, 2020, Athletics Committee meeting minutes.

Action. On a motion by Ms. Sampson, seconded by Ms. Decker, the Committee unanimously approved the December 8, 2020, Athletics Committee meeting minutes.

Football Recap/Update. Mr. Healy expressed his thanks to the Trustees for all of their support through the difficult year. He shared how he enjoyed working with the football players. Mr. Healy reported that in the quest to keep building and making sure we get the right student-athletes, this year brought a great recruiting class, and we signed 17 high school seniors. Mr. Healy stated that the candidate pool is strong for recruiting, and some players have turned down Power Five conference opportunities to come to UNC Charlotte. Mr. Healy also reported that we will incorporate some
coaching changes to continue building the program and create a great experience. Discussion ensued about future testing of the players and game attendance.

**Athletic Department Update.** Mr. Hill provided a review of the success of the athletic staff and teams over the past season, sharing the many recent accolades of some athletes. He then reported that we will have 12 sports running in the spring. Next Mr. Hill discussed the name, image, and likeness policy (NIL), adding that legislation is still pending regarding the policy with expected resolution in the coming months.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, Mr. Young adjourned the meeting.
Open Session Minutes

Present
Fred W. Klein, Chair
Susan D. DeVore
Carlos E. Sanchez
Michael Wilson (ex-officio)

Absent
Mary Ann Rouse

Staff/Guests in Attendance
Sharon L. Gaber, Chancellor
Kim Bradley, Chief of Staff
Beth Hardin, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs
Jon Varnell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Management
Kathryn Horne, Director of Facilities Planning
Richard LaLiberte, Real Estate Manager
Anne Brown, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance
Greg Verret, Director of Treasury Services
Christopher Bates, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration
Nelda Tatum, Board and Committee Specialist

Call to Order. Mr. Klein 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 interests were reported.

Approval of the Minutes. Mr. Klein requested approval of the December 8, 2020, minutes of the Facilities and Physical Properties Committee (FPPC).
Action: On a motion by Mr. Sanchez, seconded by Ms. DeVore, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes for the December 8, 2020, FPPC meeting.

Project Update on Delayed or Terminated Capital Projects.
Lot 5A. Mr. Varnell stated that Lot 5A is related to the East Village Infrastructure project designed to address vehicular congestion on the east side of campus and on campus, city, and state roads. Mr. Varnell reported that the East Village Infrastructure project is delayed and as a result, there is no need to expand Lot 5A.

Popp Martin Student Dining Renovations
Mr. Varnell reported that the design and construction of the project will be implemented in phases. He reported that Dining Services has reevaluated project needs and priorities given the financial impacts of the pandemic. Mr. Varnell further reported that the existing Einstein Brothers Bagel venue will be renovated as a new Shake Shack venue.

Easement on 106-acre Parcel (For Information Only)
Ms. Hardin stated that a 106-acre undeveloped parcel of university land is located to the east of Mallard Creek Church Road. Mr. Hardin reported that Charlotte Water requested an expansion of their currently existing easement on this parcel.

Ms. Hardin advised that this parcel could allow for the development, expansion, and growth of the University beyond the current boundaries of the primary campus. She explained that it is a part of the Millennial Campus which has different development guidelines. Ms. Hardin further explained that there are no existing development plans for this parcel. Ms. Hardin reported that the University is actively working on an updated assessment of the impact of the requested easement on future development. She explained that classroom space would not be considered for this parcel because it is remote from the main campus and could present related transportation issues. Ms. Hardin stated that the easement request will be brought back to the FPPC and the full board in April 2021 to review recommendations from the campus property review committee and campus leadership.

Capital Improvement Projects Update.

Science Building
Ms. Hardin reported that the Science Building will be completed in the spring, and that the state will provide operating funds. Ms. Hardin stated that this opening will require collaboration with the appropriate faculty and staff, including initial laboratory set up. She reported that beneficial occupancy should be granted in April 2021, allowing preparation of the building for use in the fall. Ms. Hardin indicated that there have been several construction delays attributed to COVID-19, and according to the contract, any associated impact is the responsibility of the construction manager.

Bioinformatics
Mr. Varnell reported that bids are due soon on this project and current indicators in the market are that pricing has begun to increase compared to some of the favorable bids results from the projects bid in 2020. This is the largest current capital project other than the Science Building.
Adjourn. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.

Submitted: ___________________________ 4/13/2021
Lawrence Kelley
Interim Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs

Approved: ___________________________ 4/1/21
Fred W. Klein
Chair, Facilities and Physical Properties Committee
Open Session Minutes

Present
Michael L. Wilson, Chair
Dennis N. Bunker III
Sharon Allred Decker
Susan D. DeVore
Theresa J. Drew
Christine P. Katziff
David W. Mildenberg
Tahlieah K. Sampson
Carlos E. Sanchez
Teross W. Young Jr.

Absent
J. Brett Keeter
Fred W. Klein Jr.
Mary Ann Rouse

Staff/Guests in Attendance
Sharon L. Gaber, Chancellor
Joel Avrin, Faculty Council President
Kevin Bailey, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Kim Bradley, Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary to the Board
Mike Carlin, Vice Chancellor for OneIT and Chief Information Officer
Anna Clark, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Celeste Corpening, Staff Council Chair
Betty Doster, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Constituent Relations
Shari Dunn, Senior Executive Assistant to the Chancellor
Beth Hardin, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs
Mike Hill, Director of Athletics
Jesh Humphrey, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel
Melva Jenkins, Administrative Liaison for University Governance
Claire Kirby, Associate Provost of Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions
Joan Lorden, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Colleen Penhall, Chief Communications Officer/Associate Vice Chancellor for University Communications
Brenda Shue, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and Division Budget Manager
Ken Smith, University Budget Director
Niles Sorensen, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement
Cheryl Waites Spellman, Interim Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion
Natasha Stracener, Broadcast Manager
Rick Tankersley, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development
Call to Order. Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order and reminded 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.

Introductions and Announcements: Mr. Wilson thanked everyone for joining the meeting and recognized the Emerging Media Communications team for assisting with the virtual facilitation of the recent BOT meetings, and making them available for public viewing via YouTube Live. Mr. Wilson then shared the following announcements and upcoming events, encouraging the Trustees to attend.

- The William States Lee College of Engineering earned acclaim in Study International for its faculty, labs and diverse community.
- Junior catcher Bailey Vannoy has been named to the USA Softball's Player of the Year Top 50 Watch List, a first in program history.
- The Dean’s Leadership Series will hold a virtual event on Thursday, February 25 at 12:00-1:00pm, featuring a diverse panel of North Carolina-based risk management and insurance leaders who will offer a broad perspective on emerging issues and trends, including: business interruption, legal liability, technology/security, alternative and remote work, workers compensation, financial planning and possible upcoming legislation. The Dean's Leadership Series aims to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Belk College of Business and give back to the Charlotte community.
- The Barnhardt Seminar on Ethics and the World of Business will be held at 5:30 pm on Monday, March 1. This year’s featured speaker is none other than Susan DeVore.
- Chancellor Gaber will be the keynote speaker at the Senior Scholars at Queens virtual gathering on Friday, March 5.
- The Women + Girls Research Alliance is partnering with Ally Financial to present a research summit March 10, 2021, focused on education, employment, health, the impact of COVID-19, and dialogue centered around the economic mobility of women and girls in our community. The Summit will include a 9 a.m. Women in Leadership Forum, featuring Chancellor Sharon Gaber and Provost Joan Lorden. Summit breakout sessions will take place in the morning and afternoon, covering Latinx Communities & COVID, Affordable Housing, Intimate Partner Violence, Educational Equity, and Economic and Equity for Women.
- The annual First Citizens Award ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 18 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. This is one of our most prestigious faculty awards, and it recognizes outstanding scholarship, creativity, and research.
- The grand opening of the UNC Charlotte Marriott Hotel and Conference Center will be on Wednesday, March 31.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Mr. Wilson requested action on the open and closed minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting as distributed.

Action. On a motion by Mr. Bunker, seconded by Ms. DeVore, the Board unanimously approved the December 8, 2020, minutes as distributed.
Remarks by the Board of Governors Liaison. Mr. Wilson informed the Board that Governor Holton was unable to attend due to a last-minute conflict. Mr. Wilson conveyed Governor Holton’s message that he is available to the Board at any time.

Remarks by the Chancellor. Chancellor Gaber provided an overview of the spring semester, sharing key delivery dates and the plan for return to class. She explained that the decision to revise the calendar and delay the start of in-person classes until February 22 was based on the Mecklenburg County Public Health projections of COVID cases peaking in mid-February. She also explained the timing of the spring break, sharing that student leaders passionately advocated to keep spring break intact even if it was in February to afford the student body a break from the stresses related to experiences beginning with the shooting in April 2019, and continuing through the onset of the pandemic. Chancellor Gaber indicated that the calendar provides for a week of online classes after the break to mitigate potential spreading of the virus after some students may have travelled. Dr. Gaber also reported that there will be no classes on April 30 to recognize it as a Day of Remembrance, stating that we are in the process of planning events for the day, including a virtual program during which the design for the memorial will be unveiled.

Next, Chancellor Gaber discussed how we will provide a safe learning and working environment for students, faculty, and staff upon return to campus, including the continuation of wastewater and random mitigation surveillance testing, as well as the required daily health check surveys and flu shot attestations. She also provided an update on the University’s recent application to become a direct vaccine provider. If approved, we will receive vaccines directly from the state and will be responsible for vaccinating the broader community in addition to our students and staff. We also continue to work with Atrium to partner with them to get our campus community vaccinated.

Dr. Gaber continued by stating that communications has played a key role in our overall attempts to keep our campus safe and healthy, referencing the Niner Nation Cares website, which makes pertinent information readily available, the daily Niner Insider emails, and the numerous town halls for students, families, and employees to provide them with information and give them an opportunity to ask questions.

Next, Dr. Gaber updated the Board on the brand development strategy, identifying the four phases of the process. Chancellor Gaber announced that we expect to launch the new refreshed brand in Fall 2021 in alignment with our 75th anniversary. Chancellor Gaber then provided a detailed overview of the selection of the brand positioning statement.

In conclusion, Chancellor Gaber reported that as a part of a broader communications strategy, we have implemented a Higher Ed Campaign to share our story more broadly to higher ed leaders across the U.S. We are using direct mail, email, and social media to introduce the campaign theme, “Momentum”, which highlights our progress in multiple areas that bolster our academic reputation. Likewise, we have also launched a Deans Campaign to spotlight our deans on social media, email, and the website, positioning them as experts in their fields.

Strategic Planning Update. Chancellor Gaber provided an update on the strategic planning process, reminding the Board of the three stages of the process. She reported that the next step is to vet the current draft framework with our campus community. She then provided an overview of the strategic plan framework, including its four focus areas, and the underlying strategic work that will form the goals under each area. Chancellor Gaber then shared the draft mission and vision statements and values. She explained that the mission statement communicates who we are and what our purpose is; the vision
statement is forward-thinking and states what we want to become; the values support our vision, shape our culture, and reflect what we value and believe. The mission statement will also need to be approved by the Board of Governors. Lastly, Chancellor Gaber explained that the current framework contains the top-level focus and goals. Work will continue in the spring and summer to develop the objectives and actions that will make the strategic plan actionable.

Budget Update. Mr. Smith provided an update on the budget, including a breakdown of revenue losses as a result of the pandemic, as well as the use of Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER), Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funding that the University has received.

Hotel and Conference Center Update. Mr. Sorensen provided an update on the hotel and conference center. He reminded the Board that ownership was transferred to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Endowment Fund in December because of its tax-exempt status. Mr. Sorensen reported that construction was recently delayed after 26 cases of COVID were identified on site, but confirmed that we are still planning for a March 3, socially distanced, grand opening.

Mr. Sorensen then reviewed the funding sources and shared a snapshot of the financing. He stated that he is encouraged by the numbers and future of the hotel and conference center.

Legislative Update. Ms. Doster provided a legislative update, reporting that we currently have the most alumni serving in office than we have ever had, with several serving in key positions. Ms. Doster shared details of the UNC Charlotte alumni and their leadership roles in the legislature.

Ms. Doster then reported on the System’s updated legislative agenda for the year, which includes enrollment growth funding, and funds to open the Connect NC Science building, and salary increases for University employees. Ms. Doster concluded by encouraging the Board members to acknowledge and congratulate our alumni who are key legislators for what they do for us.

Enrollment and Projections. Ms. Kirby provided an overview of the fall enrollment, as well as projections for the future, reporting that extensive recruitment for next year has already begun. Ms. Kirby reported that we had the highest graduate enrollment in history. She reviewed the 2020 freshman class profile, highlighting the growth in diversity. Ms. Kirby reported that the top competition in freshman recruitment is NC State and Appalachian State. Survey results indicate that financial aid plays a major role in the candidate’s’ decision to not go with UNC Charlotte.

Ms. Kirby also reported on transfer enrollment, indicating that transfer applications have been declining steadily since 2016, which is consistent with national trends. She reported on the 49erNext program for community college students who plan to transfer to UNC Charlotte to pursue a bachelor’s degree.

Discussion ensued regarding the impact of the pandemic on enrollment.

Report of the University Faculty Council. Mr. Avrin provided a summary of his written report of the Faculty Council, which highlighted the work of Dr. Pinku Mukherjee, who is the Irwin Belk Endowed Professor of Cancer Research in the department of Biological Sciences. Mr. Avrin reported that he had responded to a request from the President of the Faculty Assembly to all system faculty senate chairs to provide materials telling about an outstanding colleague representing the “wonderful work faculty in our
system are doing” to help him highlight different faculty and students from each campus for an upcoming presentation to the Board of Governors.

Mr. Avrin apprised the Board that he has taken every opportunity in Faculty Assembly meetings to advocate for systemic effort to highlight the work of faculty and the enormous contribution they make to the state, both economically and in terms of molding thoughtful and discerning citizens and future leaders.

Report of the University Staff Council. Ms. Corpening provided an update on the staff council’s recent activities, reporting that the Council has distributed approximately 25-30 golden nugget awards to deserving staff each month in the last quarter. Ms. Corpening reported that topics discussed at the last Staff Assembly chairs meeting included uncertainty of the budget, early retirement proposals, leave options, engagement survey results, COVID-19 vaccines, UNC System Equity Task Force (ETF), the “hiring pause”, encouragement to telework, expiration of new hire retirement benefits as of January 2021, and the golf tournament.

Ms. Corpening also reported that the Staff Council added two new positions to the Executive Board, which will be meeting to establish goals for the upcoming year. She reported that the Council welcomed new representatives, as they voted for the positions of chair, vice chair, secretary, communications officers, and even-numbered area representative/alternates.

Report of the Student Government Association. Ms. Sampson reported that the UNC Association of Student Governments is advocating for the continuation of the mandatory student activities fee, which the Board of Governors has discussed the option of eliminating or making it optional.

Ms. Sampson then reported on the Sustainability Summit and Racial Task Force, a coalition advocating to eliminate systemic racial barriers and discriminatory practices for the success of students, staff, and faculty. Ms. Sampson reported that as a result of students requesting diversity and inclusion training for students, the Student Government Association is currently working with Dr. Waites Spellman to identify training for students, with a goal to gain feedback and allow students to take diversity and training courses.

Lastly, Ms. Sampson reported on the introduction of the Academic Complaint Form in the attempt to advocate for students experiencing issues in their classes, indicating that SGA has prioritized developing a direct line for student voices.

Discussion ensued about the plan to hold virtual nominations for electing new SGA officers. Ms. Sampson reported that the Committee with meet virtually to facilitate the elections.

Report of the Executive Committee. Mr. Wilson reported that Provost Lorden presented a revision of the plan to establish the Belk Distinguished Professor of Biology. He then reported that he appointed the Nominating Committee members who will facilitate the nomination and elections of Board officers for 2021-22. The Committee will be chaired by Ms. Katziff, with Mssrs. Klein and Bunker serving as well. Mr. Wilson advised the Board that any nominations should be submitted through the Nominating Committee. Mr. Wilson also recognized Ms. Rouse for serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee for several years.
Mr. Wilson next reported on the Board self-assessment, reminding the Board that an extension was granted from the Board of Governors last year because we were in the middle of our Chancellor search process. Mr. Wilson advised the Board that the self-assessment will take place in Fall 2021, and that Ms. Bradley is gathering information from potential consultants to work with us.

Report of the Audit, Compliance, and Enterprise Risk Management Committee. Ms. DeVore reported that the Assistant State Auditor Supervisor David Ehrlich joined the Committee and reported that the State Auditor’s office completed the FY 2020 financial statement audit for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The auditors presented an unmodified (clean) opinion with no findings reported. Ms. DeVore next shared that University Director of Treasure Services, Greg Verret, reported that the FY 2020 financial statement audits for the Affiliated Entities were completed by external auditors, and that all audits received unmodified (clean) opinions with no findings. Ms. DeVore then reported that University Controller, Laura Williams, reported that the NCAA Agreed-Upon Procedures audit was clean with no findings.

Next, Ms. DeVore reported that the Committee received an update for the FY21 Audit Plan and a summary of internal audit reports issued this period, with no major findings reported. Ms. DeVore also reported that the Internal Audit Findings Exception Report had one anticipated minor exception that should be remedied within the month. Ms. DeVore then stated that the Internal Audit staff has completed their Annual Code of Ethics Certification disclosing any potential or perceived conflicts of interest with no major conflicts reported. Ms. DeVore then reported that the Committee received University Ethics and Compliance Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) updates.

Report of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Mr. Bunker reported that the Committee received presentations from two programs, EPIC and the Lab School.

Mr. Bunker shared that Dr. Mazzola, Executive Director of the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC), gave a presentation on a grant from the Competitive State Energy Program at the U.S. Department of Energy that it received for its proposal in partnership with the NC State Energy Director, Duke Energy, and the NC Clean Energy Technology Center at NC State University.

Mr. Bunker then shared that Ms. Broome, Principal of the Lab School, gave an update on the Lab School, which is in its first year of operations. Mr. Bunker reported that the enrollment is currently 72 students, with a goal of 200 students for the next academic year.

Report of the Athletics Committee. Mr. Young reported that the Committee received updates from the head football coach, Will Healy and the Athletics Director, Mike Hill. Mr. Young reported that Coach Healy discussed his focus on maintaining a safe environment for the players and keeping them motivated during this time, as well as the recruiting process.

Mr. Young then reported that Mr. Hill discussed the turnover on the football coaching staff. He reported that other topics covered by Mr. Hill included the testing regimen required for athletes, the shift in the athletics schedule, recognition of athletes by the conference and from around the country, an update on the NCAA transfer rules, and Name, Image, Likeness legislation.

Report of the Facilities and Physical Properties Committee. Mr. Wilson provided the FPPC report on behalf of Mr. Klein, who was unexpectedly called away. Mr. Wilson reported that the Committee discussed two projects that have been delayed due to budgetary restraints.
Motion to Convene in Closed Session. Mr. Wilson called for a motion to convene in closed session, inviting Cabinet members to stay.

Action. On a motion by Ms. DeVore, seconded by Mr. Bunker, the Board convened in closed session pursuant to the following General Statutes of the State of North Carolina:

a. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(1), to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the laws of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes, such privilege or confidentiality arising under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. §1232g) or N.C.G.S. Ch. 126, Art. 7;

b. to consult with and receive advice from counsel pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3);

c. to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual, public officer or employee, or prospective public officer or employee pursuant to N.C.G.S §143-318.11 (a)(6);

d. to prevent the premature disclosure of an award pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143.318.11(a)(2).

Closed Session

Closed session minutes are filed in the office of the Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Open Session

Other Business. Mr. Wilson addressed a question about the hotel and conference center that arose during closed session.

Adjourn. There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wilson adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

Submitted:

Kim S. Bradley
Assistant Secretary to the Board
UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees

Approved:

Michael L. Wilson
Chair
UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees