

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Friday, April 25, 2025
3:30 p.m.
Teleconference/Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University met via teleconference at the call of the Chancellor and the Chair on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. Chair Mark Ricks presided and called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

J. Jeffries Chesson
Fairley Bell Cook
James E. Harris
Mark E. Ricks
R. Thomas Sofield

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE:

Dawn Antonucci
J.J. Brown
Doug Gillin
Heather Norris, Chancellor
Jonathan Reeder
Sarah Rupp
Neva Specht

CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTICE: Trustee Ricks read the following statement:

“Under the State Government Ethics Act, all voting members of the Board of Trustees have a duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts. Looking at the agenda for today's meeting, does anyone know that you have a conflict of interest or an interest that would give rise to the appearance of a conflict of interest? If so, please let me know now.” [None reported]

ROLL CALL: Trustee Ricks asked Dawn Antonucci to call roll to verify all participants on the call.

CLOSED SESSION: Chair Ricks announced that he would entertain a motion for the Committee to convene in closed session.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Committee convened in closed session:

to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information in accordance with N.C.G.S § 143-318.11(a)(1); and

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 in accordance with N.C.G.S § 143-318.11(a)(6).

OPEN SESSION RECONVENED: Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Board reconvened in open session at 3:43 p.m.

Employment Agreement for Head Volleyball Coach

Chair Ricks stated the contract for Chad Sutton as Head Volleyball Coach had been reviewed in the closed session portion of the meeting and time was permitted for discussion.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the contract was approved as presented.

Board of Trustees Delegated Authority

Chair Ricks recognized Associate General Counsel Sarah Rupp for this item. Ms. Rupp shared the Board of Trustees' powers and duties are defined by the UNC Board of Governors through the Board of Governors delegating powers to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees delegates powers and duties to the Chancellor. In 2021, the Board of Governors directed each board of trustees to identify and restate in one binding resolution all instances in which the board of trustees has delegated its delegated authority. Our Board of Trustees adopted a Resolution to Amend and Restate its Delegated Authority on September 24, 2021. To ensure the delegations remain current it is important to review these delegations from time to time.

Ms. Rupp stated that she and Interim General Counsel Brad Trahan reviewed the current delegations and, in consultation with the Chancellor and her Executive Leadership Team, recommended six modifications: 2 new delegations, 2 delegations to comply with UNC Policy, and 2 delegations to comply with App State Policy.

The new delegations surround real property and capital projects. These delegations will give the Chancellor authority to approve the acquisition or disposition of an interest in real property valued at less than \$50,000 and to approve non-appropriated capital projects below \$500,000. This will give her the ability to move smaller-dollar projects forward more quickly. Examples include projects like asphalt and sidewalk repairs, interior upfits to classrooms and other spaces, and utility-related repairs. We have reviewed other UNC System campus delegations in this space and this is common practice.

The delegations to comply with Policies surround the new Equality Policy, Updates from the System on Personnel Actions, Parking Enforcement on Campus, and the responsibility for tuition collection.

The Office of General Counsel recommends approval of these delegations.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Delegation of Authority was approved as presented.

Reaffirm the UNC System 120 Semester Credit Hour Exemption

Chair Ricks recognized Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost Neva Specht for this item. Ms. Specht stated the UNC Policy 400.1.5 provides that baccalaureate degree programs may not require more than 120 semester credit hours without an exception being approved by the Board of Trustees for compelling reasons. In 2018, the Board of Trustees approved an exception for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program, or BSN Program, allowing that program to require 126 semester credit hours for degree completion. The Chair of the Board of Governors recently encouraged the campuses to review their exceptions and, where appropriate, reaffirm or reconsider the exceptions. Today, we are asking the Board of Trustees to reaffirm this exception.

Provost Specht also stated that App State's BSN program's exception is consistent with other nursing programs in the UNC System. In 2018, eight campuses sought and received an exception to the 120-semester credit hour limit for BSN programs. App State's current 126 semester credit hour requirement is critical to maintain high-quality programming to meet accreditation and Board of Nursing requirements and most importantly, ensure graduates are prepared to practice in complex health care environments.

Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost Neva Specht recommended approval of this exception.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the exception was approved as presented.

Election of Trustee to the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund

Chair Ricks stated the last item of business is to elect a new member of the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund. Chair Ricks shared the Board of Trustees has the responsibility to establish and maintain an endowment fund for the University, including electing its members. As a reminder, the Endowment Fund Board consists of eight members: the BOT Chair and Vice Chair, the Chancellor, and five other elected members. The current elected members are Trustee Jeff Chesson, Trustee Fairley Bell Cook, Trustee Jamie Harris, CFO John Adams, and there is one vacancy.

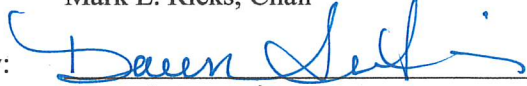
To fill the vacancy, Chair Ricks nominated Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer JJ Brown to serve on the Board.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board member was approved as presented.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Mark E. Ricks, Chair

By:


Dawn Antonucci
Assistant Secretary