

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Friday, December 5, 2025
12:00 p.m.
App State Hickory Campus
800 17th St. NW, Hickory, NC 28601

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University met at the call of the Chair and the Chancellor in Room 2209 on the Hickory Campus of Appalachian State University on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. Chair Mark E. Ricks presided and called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Chesson
Tamela Everett
Anita Greene
James Harris
James Reaves
Mark Ricks, Chair
Jamie Schaefer
Kimberly Shepherd
Thomas Sofield
Nicole Tran
Wayne Sumner
Will Warren
Steven Wyatt

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dawn Antonucci
Kristen Bonatz
JJ Brown
Philip Byers
David Cook
Brad Cooper
Doug Gillin
Megan Hayes
Heather Norris, Chancellor
Sarah Rupp
Will Sears
Neva Specht

CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTICE: Chair 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.

Chair Ricks also read the following: "As we begin the business portion of the meeting, I would like to remind everyone of the Board's expectations for conduct at our meetings. We ask that those attending today remain respectful of fellow attendees and the Board. Those attending an official meeting may not engage in conduct that is inconsistent with our Bylaws or that interferes with the rights of others to observe and listen to the proceedings. Any individual who disrupts the meeting will be asked to leave and may be subject to arrest."

ROLL CALL: Chair Ricks asked David Cook to call roll to verify all participants at the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Chair Ricks welcomed Board of Governors Member Philip Byers, university leadership, guests and members of the media.

APPROVAL OF ABSENCES: N/A

CLOSED SESSION: Chair Ricks called on Trustee Sofield to share a motion for the Board to convene in closed session. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the motion was approved as presented.

Chair Ricks asked that everyone be excused with the exception of Board of Governors member Philip Byers, Trustees, Chancellor Norris, Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost, Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice Chancellor, Chief of Staff, Vice Chancellor for Advancement, the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity & General Counsel, Director of Chancellor Communications, Director of Athletics, and the Assistant Secretary.

Chair Ricks stated the livestream would be closed as the Board convened in closed session. Once the Board returns to open session the livestream will resume.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board convened in closed session to:

prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information pursuant to North Carolina General Statute, Section 126-22 in accordance with [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (1)];

prevent the premature disclosure of an honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award in accordance with [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (2)];

consult with the University's attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege pursuant to [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (3)]; 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);

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED: Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Board reconvened in open session at 1:20 p.m.

REMARKS FROM CHANCELLOR NORRIS: (see Attachment 1).

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Chair Ricks recognized Trustee Tamela Everett, Chair of the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee, for this report.

Trustee Everett stated that the Committee considered three information items and three action items.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September 5, 2025, Academic Affairs/Student Affairs committee meeting were approved.

Student Presentations

Interim Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Jeff Cathey, introduced Sarah Johnson and Ben Tugwell. Sarah and Ben shared their perspectives on what it means to be a student at App State. Both of their presentations were exceptional, and demonstrated how their various activities, service work, connections, and campus involvement have impacted their experience as students at App State and shaped their education and their future.

Academic Program Review

Provost Specht presented the report on Academic Program Review as found in Exhibit A-1 in BoardEffect. This is a yearly report to the System Office that summarizes academic programs that are set for expansion, contraction, elimination, or no action needed. The program review takes place every seven years on a staggered schedule and is intended for unit improvement.

Academic Affairs Updates

Dr. Amy Wood, Associate Vice Provost for Academics and Community Outreach at the Hickory Campus, provided an update on Hickory. In addition to providing classrooms, state of the art computer labs, study lounges, gym space, and more for the 523 enrolled students and the faculty; the campus hosted workshops, conferences, corporate events, and business meetings for more than 6000 external visitors this year. Twelve academic programs are currently offered which students can start and finish in Hickory. The mission of delivering high-quality academic

programs, cultivating student success, and building partnerships in the region to enhance economic development and quality of life in western North Carolina is well underway.

Dr. Mark Bradbury, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Programming and Planning, shared an update on Project Kitty Hawk and App State's Flight Path program. Dr. Bradbury provided a brief history of the partnership with PKH and the mission to provide an education pathway for the more than 1 million working adults in North Carolina. The partnership with PKH has been and continues to be a successful one, and is the result of a university-wide, collaborative effort. Currently, 483 students are enrolled across 5 programs for the Fall of 2025. With another program coming online in Spring of '26, an estimated total enrollment of 1,000 students is expected by Summer of '27.

REPORT FROM ATHLETICS COMMITTEE: Chair Ricks recognized Trustee Jeff Chesson, Chair of the Athletics Committee, for this report.

Student-Athletes, Sophia Baxter from Women's Field Hockey, and Henry Stark from Men's Cross Country and Track and Field, gave the committee insight into their experience at App State. Both Student-Athletes recently concluded strong seasons this fall, both earning first team all-conference honors in their respective sports.

Director of Athletics, Doug Gillin, then gave Athletics Updates to the committee beginning with Jennifer Schroeder Tyson being named the 2025 Sun Belt Conference Faculty Member of the Year. In the community, App State was honored with the 2025 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Community Impact Award, recognizing App State Student-Athletes' efforts following Hurricane Helene in 2024.

Competitively, App State's Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams won conference championships this fall, while Field Hockey achieved a national ranking as high as #17 during the 2025 season. Signature wins were also earned with Field Hockey defeating Michigan State, volleyball defeating Virginia and Duke, and soccer defeated Miami during their respective seasons.

To conclude the open session, an update on App State Athletics Capital Projects were reviewed, including progress on the new Sofield Family Indoor Practice Facility, and the start of the Advanced Planning Process for the East Tower project at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

REPORT FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE: Chair Ricks recognized Trustee Anita Greene, Chair of the Audit Committee, for this report.

Trustee Greene stated the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee met and discussed the following information items:

1. The committee received an update on the Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals for the Office of Internal Audits.

2. The committee reviewed progress on the FY '26 annual audit plan and a report on the internal audits and consultations that have been completed since the previous ARC Committee meeting.
3. The committee reviewed the external audits currently in progress and completed since the last meeting.
4. The committee received an update on “Top Five Enterprise Risks” from the Office of Compliance and Ethics.
5. The committee received an update on cybersecurity and AI from Information Technology Services, which included a presentation from Carson Patterson, a Graduate Student in Applied Data Analytics who served as an AI Intern in ITS.
6. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board convened in closed session.

REPORT FROM FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: Chair Ricks recognized Jamie Harris, Chair of the Finance & Operations Committee, for this report.

The Finance and Operations Committee met and approved the minutes from the September 4, 2025, Finance and Operations committee meeting. They also considered two action items included in the consent agenda for approval.

1. The first action item was a Fiscal Year 27 Tuition and Fee Proposal. The associated materials were found in Board Effect under EXHIBIT D-1.
2. The second action item was a Capital Projects Authorization for Tennis Court Repairs found in Board Effect under EXHIBIT D-2.

There were also two informational items, both presented to the Committee by Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer JJ Brown.

1. The first information item was a FEMA and Insurance update.
2. The second information item was an update on current capital projects.

REPORT FROM GOVERNANCE, EXECUTIVE & APPEALS COMMITTEE:

Chair Ricks provided this report. The Governance, Executive & Appeals Committee met Thursday afternoon, December 4, 2025, and considered four action items in open session; all of which were included on the consent agenda.

1. For the first item, the committee considered proposed revisions to the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees. Those recommended amendments were found in Board Effect as Exhibits E-1A and E-1B.
2. Next, the Appalachian State University Foundation Board of Directors revised its bylaws and in accordance with Article 8, any proposed amendments to the bylaws must be submitted to the Board of Trustees for final approval. Those proposed amendments were found in Board Effect listed as Exhibit E2.
3. For the third item, Vice Chancellor Will Sears, presented Foundation Board re-appointments, new appointments, and nomination of officers. Those recommendations were in Board Effect as Exhibit E3.

4. And lastly, the Committee considered Board of Visitor re-appointments, new appointments, and nomination of officers. These recommendations are in Board Effect as Exhibit E4.

The Committee recommended approval of all four of these items as presented on the consent agenda. This concludes the report of the Governance, Executive & Appeals Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the consent agenda was approved as presented and consisted of the following items:

Meeting Minutes 9.5.25
FY 2027 Tuition & Fee Proposal – EXHIBIT D-1
Capital Project Authorizations – EXHIBIT D-2
 a. Tennis Court Repair
BOT Bylaw Amendments – EXHIBIT E-1A & E-1B
Foundation Board Bylaw Amendments – EXHIBIT E-2
Foundation Board Nominations – EXHIBIT E-3
Board of Visitors Nominations – EXHIBIT E-4

REMARKS FROM CHAIR MARK RICKS: Chair Ricks thanked the IT/AV support staff, Food services, University Police, and App State Hickory. Chair Ricks also thanked Eric and Katherine Church for their substantial Helene housing recovery efforts within the community.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Mark E. Ricks, Chair

By: David Cook
David Cook
Assistant Secretary

Chancellor Norris Remarks from the December 5th, 2025 Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Friday, December 5, 2025

Good afternoon.

At the beginning of this academic year, I shared with you all that Appalachian State University is operating from a position of strength.

- We have shown record enrollment growth nearly each year for the last decade.
- Numerous national accolades speak to the success of our students.
- Our graduation rates place us within the top four schools in the UNC System.
- We also hold the No. 5 spot in the System for our first- to second-year retention rate, which outperforms the national average by more than 15%, signaling a much higher likelihood that students who start in the fall will return the following year.
- Our recent R2 designation underscores the research and innovations our faculty are creating and developing, which are strengthening the resilience of our regional infrastructure and meeting present and future needs of communities and industry — both locally and globally.

All of these contribute to the pillars of strength we continue to build upon and the solid foundation that has been more than 125 years in the making.

We're well diversified across our funding sources and fortunate to be in a state that is, per capita, among the top five in the nation for state funding.

At App State, private dollars work in concert with the generous public funding we receive from our state legislature, as well as from federal grants, to ensure our success.

Five months into the fiscal year, we're seeing the second-best fundraising year in university history so far and, as Will noted in his update yesterday, campaign planning is underway — with the stakeholder interview process beginning this

month and on track to be completed early in 2026. Fundraising success is critical to our ability to attract and retain students, faculty and staff — and to support their success.

We are an institution that is resilient and forward-thinking, never satisfied with “good enough,” always seeking to address the needs of the future. We remain committed to advancing our founding mission of access and success for our students for the betterment of our society.

In a time of unprecedented challenges for our industry, an uncertain state budget — at least for the immediate future, and extreme market competition, we are focused on the factors that are within our control.

Strong enrollment is critical to maintaining our market position. With the nationwide number of high school graduates falling and our hometown of Boone at or near capacity for the number of students it can support, we have shifted our enrollment goals to match the market conditions while continuing to support the needs of our region and our state.

Whether they are attending classes in Boone, online or in Hickory, we must ensure we can attract, retain and meet the needs of the students of today and tomorrow, in and beyond the classroom.

Our growth strategy focuses on:

- our App State Online programs, including our new online Flight Path programs — offered through a partnership with the UNC affiliate Project Kitty Hawk and tailored for adult learners — which now account for 14% of our online students; and
- continuing the strong momentum we are building on our Hickory campus.

Earlier today, you heard from Dr. Amy Wood, who shared some key information about why the Catawba Valley provides opportunities for App State to serve this region and how App State is developing academic programs that support the needs of the local communities.

Today, more than 500 students are enrolled at App State’s Hickory campus, pursuing degrees that align with the needs of our region and the strengths of our faculty.

We are actively engaged with government, educational, industry and civic leaders in the Catawba Valley area to address future educational needs, and I'm so pleased that you'll have an opportunity to interact with some of these folks at our reception later today. We are expanding these partnerships — hosting workshops, training sessions and meetings with schools, industry and local government partners, many of our staff members serve on local boards and commissions, and we are proud to be identified as the anchor of Hickory's new innovation district.

Our growing strategic relationships with Lenoir-Rhyne University, Catawba Valley Community College, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Morganton — whose leaders I meet with regularly — among others, are focused on educational attainment pathways that meet the needs of students and their employers. This includes developing strategic recruitment pipelines, dual enrollment agreements and partnering to develop certification programs that will meet short- and long-term goals for employers in the region.

Caldwell and Catawba Valley community colleges — the two community colleges closest in proximity to our Hickory campus — were also the first two of the community colleges now in our Aspire Appalachian program. Through this program, we now have formal partnerships with nearly 60% of North Carolina's community colleges in the state to help students complete their bachelor's degrees.

Our Hickory campus offerings now include programs that span the broad areas of business, education, technology and health sciences, and we are developing certificate programs, professional development opportunities and evening and weekend class meeting times that work for students who are also holding down full-time jobs.

Our newest offerings include:

- a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity to address the need for trained experts to secure and safeguard information, infrastructure and digital assets for public, private and nonprofit organizations;
- a Doctor of Nursing Practice, which will launch next fall — supported by a brand-new simulation lab and health sciences clinic;
- an emergency management certificate program, which will also launch next fall — and could be completed with the Bachelor of Science in professional studies or taken as a stand-alone;

- a Hickory Police Cadet initiative in partnership with the City of Hickory Police Department and Catawba Valley Community College; and
- a new business concentration in aviation management, which is on track to begin in fall 2026.

Each of these offerings reflects our commitment to meeting regional workforce needs and creating clear, accessible pathways for professional advancement.

We have launched reading and math clinics for school-aged children — hands-on learning experiences that not only serve local families but also give our education majors real-world practice.

In addition, we offer an Aging Well program that provides specialized services to our senior community and will soon add a Growing Well program for young children identified with developmental delays. These services and clinics are already making a difference, and we plan to expand them in the years ahead to serve our community.

As you will see on your tour later today, we're also continuing to develop this beautiful facility. Our newly opened second floor adds 12 additional classrooms, two science labs, a spectacular cybersecurity lab and vibrant collaboration spaces, creating even more opportunities for innovation, hands-on learning and community engagement.

As we develop our next universitywide strategic plan in the coming months, our process will be collaborative, collective and iterative. We will look ahead to realize a vision for who we will become as a university in the next two, five, 10 years and beyond — one that is grounded in our founding mission of access and student success and that delivers on our promise of high-impact research and service.

Our goals will focus on:

- reaching more students and providing them with a top-quality education with a modality and delivery method that meets their needs;
- continuing to provide access to a high-quality education — with even more opportunities for experiential learning, applied research and community engagement;
- adding value to our students' experiences, inside and beyond our classrooms, studios and labs;
- enriching experiences in the arts and athletics; and

ATTACHMENT 1

- using our collective talents and expertise to partner with — and serve — our communities.

Our Hickory campus will be integral to this plan, and I look forward to engaging with faculty, staff and students, as well as external partners from the communities we serve, to shape this vision for the future of our university — one that will serve more people in the great state of North Carolina with high-quality degrees that will offer lifelong benefits, driving civic engagement and leadership, enhancing the economic development of our communities and fostering innovations that benefit industry and society at large.

Before I close my remarks, I'd like to share a quick reminder that we will celebrate the graduating Class of 2025 next Friday, Dec. 12, with three ceremonies at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. in Boone. We welcome you to join us! And next Sunday, Dec. 14, our men's basketball team will host the High Point Panthers in the second installment of the Hickory Hoops Classic at Lenoir-Rhyne's Shuford Memorial Arena. We're looking forward to that game and appreciate the opportunity to host a home game just minutes away from our Hickory campus.

Throughout the day, you've heard quite a bit about this Hickory campus, and as I noted, you'll have the opportunity to take a tour shortly, but there's really nothing like hearing the voices of the students themselves. Earlier this week, we celebrated the upcoming graduation of our students who have earned their App State degrees on our Hickory campus and will cross the commencement stage a week from today. I'd like to share thoughts from a couple of them with you now, in this [video](#).

With that, I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season as we close out an incredible year!

Mr. Chair, this concludes my remarks.

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Friday, December 5, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Room 2209
Hickory Campus

CALL TO ORDER: The Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University met at the call of the Chair and the Chancellor on Friday, December 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Chair Everett presided and called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tamela Everett
Jeff Chesson
Anita Greene
Jamie Harris
James Reaves
Mark Ricks
Jamie Schaefer
Kim Shephard
Tommy Sofield
Wayne Sumner
Nicole Tran
Will Warren
Steve Wyatt

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chancellor Norris
Kristen Bonatz
Mark Bradbury
J.J. Brown
Kathy Brown
Governor Byers
Jeff Cathey
Brad Cooper
Sarah Johnson
Shanshan Lou
Mike McKenzie
Mike Madritch
Jamie Parson
Sue Polanka
Will Sears
Neva Specht
Ben Tugwell
Amy Wood

CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTICE: Chair Everett 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."

OPENING STATEMENT ON EXPECTATIONS OF CONDUCT: Chair Everett read the following statement:

"As we begin the business portion of the meeting, I would like to remind everyone of the Subcommittee's expectations for conduct at our meetings. We ask that those attending today remain respectful of fellow attendees and the Committee. Those attending an official meeting may not engage in conduct that is inconsistent with our Bylaws or that interferes with the rights of others to observe and listen to the proceedings. Any individual who disrupts the meeting will be asked to leave and may be subject to arrest."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting were approved without objection.

PRESENTATION: Student Presentations

Interim Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Jeff Cathey, introduced Sarah Johnson, a Junior from Troutman, NC, and Ben Tugwell, a Senior from Gastonia, NC. Sarah and Ben are highly engaged students who shared their perspectives on what it means to be a student at App State. Their presentations were exceptional, and demonstrated how their various activities, service work, connections, and campus involvement have impacted their experience as students at App State and shaped their education and their future.

INFORMATION ITEM: Academic Program Review

Provost Neva Specht presented the report on Academic Program Review. This is a yearly report to the System Office that summarizes academic programs that are set for expansion, contraction, elimination, or no action needed. The program review takes place every seven years on a staggered schedule and is intended for unit improvement.

INFORMATION ITEM: Academic Affairs Updates

Academic Affairs provided updates on the Hickory Campus and Project Kitty Hawk/Flight Path.

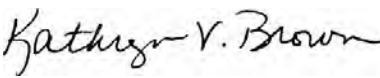
Dr. Amy Wood, Associate Vice Provost for Academics and Community Outreach at the Hickory Campus, provided an update on the Hickory Campus. In addition to providing classrooms, state of the art computer labs, study lounges, gym space, and so much more for the 523 enrolled students and the faculty, the campus hosted workshops, conferences, corporate events, and business meetings for more than 6000 external visitors this year. Thirteen academic programs are currently offered which students can start and finish in Hickory. The mission of delivering high-

quality academic programs, cultivating student success, and building partnerships in the region to enhance economic development and quality of life in western North Carolina is well underway.

Dr. Mark Bradbury, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Programming and Planning, shared an update on Project Kitty Hawk and App State's Flight Path program. Dr. Bradbury provided a brief history of the partnership with PKH and the mission to provide an education pathway for the more than 1 million working adults in North Carolina. The partnership with PKH has been and continues to be a successful one, and is the result of a university-wide, collaborative effort. Currently, 483 students are enrolled across 5 programs for the Fall of 2025. With another program coming online in Spring of '26, an estimated total enrollment of 1,000 students is expected by Summer of '27.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Tamela Everett

By: 
Kathy Brown
Recording Secretary

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

Friday, December 5, 2025
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
App State Hickory Campus, Room 2209
800 17th St NW
Hickory, NC 28601
Livestream at: chancellor.appstate.edu/bot/

CALL TO ORDER: The Athletics Committee of the Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University met at the call of the Chairperson and the Chancellor on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in the App State Hickory Campus, Room 2209. Jeff Chesson presided and called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Chesson
Tamela Everett
Anita Greene
Jamie Harris
James Reaves
Mark E. Ricks
Jamie Schaefer
Kimberly M. Shepherd
R. Thomas Sofield
Wayne Sumner
Nicole Tran
Will Warren
Steven D. Wyatt

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sophia Baxter
Kristen Bonatz
J.J. Brown
Philip C. Byers
David Cook
Brad Cooper
Douglas P. Gillin
Dowell Loggains
Heather Norris
Jonathan B. Reeder
Will Sears
Neva Specht
Henry Stark

CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTICE: Chair Chesson read the 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]

OPENING STATEMENT ON EXPECTATIONS OF CONDUCT: Chair Chesson read the statement: “As we begin the business portion of the meeting, I would like to remind everyone of the Committee’s expectations for conduct at our meetings. We ask that those attending today remain respectful of fellow attendees and the Committee. Those attending an official meeting may not engage in conduct that is inconsistent with our Bylaws or that interferes with the rights of others to observe and listen to the proceedings. Any individual who disrupts the meeting will be asked to leave and may be subject to arrest.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chair Chesson stated the September 4, 2025 Athletics Committee meeting minutes were previously made available in the Board Materials. Without objection, the Minutes stand approved.

STUDENT-ATHLETE PROFILE: The Committee meeting then began with a presentation by App State Field Hockey Student-Athlete, Sophia Baxter, and Men’s Cross Country and Track & Field Student-Athlete, Henry Stark.

PRESENTATION BY DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS: Mr. Doug Gillin, Director of Athletics, presented several updates to the Committee:

- Academically, Jennifer Schroeder Tyson being named the 2025 Sun Belt Conference Faculty Member of the Year.
- In the community, App State was honored with the 2025 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Community Impact Award, recognizing App State Student-Athletes’ efforts following Hurricane Helene in 2024.
- Competitively, App State’s Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Teams won conference championships this fall, while Field Hockey achieved a national ranking as high as #17 during the 2025 season. Signature wins were also earned with Field Hockey defeating Michigan State, Volleyball defeating Virginia and Duke, and Soccer defeating Miami during their respective seasons.
- An update on App State Athletics Capital Projects was reviewed, including progress on the new Sofield Family Indoor Practice Facility, and the start of the Advanced Planning Process for the East Tower project at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH: To conclude the open session, Head Football Coach, Dowell Loggains, discussed his first full signing class this week, currently one of the highest ranking classes among the Group of Six conference schools.

OPEN SESSION ADJOURNED: A motion was made and seconded that the Committee convene in closed session to:

- To consult with our attorney and protect the attorney-client privilege.
- In accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3).

The motion was approved unanimously. Board of Governors Member Philip Byers, Trustees, Chancellor Norris, Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost, Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice Chancellor, Chief of Staff, Vice Chancellor for Advancement, the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity & General Counsel, Associate General Counsel, Director of Chancellor Communications, Director of Athletics, Deputy Athletics Director, and the Assistant Secretary were asked to remain for closed session. All others were excused.

OPEN SESSION RECONVENED: Chair Chesson reconvened the open session.

ADJOURNMENT: After the open session reconvened, the meeting of the Athletics Committee adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan B. Reeder
Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025

Location: Zoom; Livestream at: chancellor.appstate.edu/bot/

Time: 3:00 PM

Chair: Anita Greene

The meeting of the Audit, Risk, and Compliance (ARC) Committee was presided over by Chair Greene. The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were present virtually:

Anita Greene, Chair

James Reaves

Wayne Sumner, Vice Chair

Jamie Schaefer

Jeff Chesson

Will Warren

Tamela Everett

Steve Wyatt

Nicole Tran

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chancellor Heather Norris

Matt Mackdad

Neva Specht

Carson Patterson

JJ Brown

Chris Wallace

Kristen Bonatz

Brad Boswell

Keith Werner

Brad Cooper

Kristi Gragg

Janet Paisley

Paul Pusateri

Jim Webb

Sorina McInturff

Jason Marshburn

David Cook

Johnny Brown

Dawn Antinoucci

1. Call to Order, Conflict of Interest Notice:

Chair Greene called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chair Greene read the Conflict of Interest Statement. No conflicts were voiced.

Recording Secretary Paul Pusateri called the roll and a quorum was confirmed. Trustees James Harris and Kimberly Shepherd were absent.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The September 4, 2025, ARC Committee meeting minutes were delivered to all Committee members prior to the meeting. Without objection, the minutes stand approved as presented.

3. Agenda Items and Discussion:

- a. Report from Internal Audit: Mrs. Kristi Gragg, Interim Chief Audit Officer, shared a report on activity since the prior ARC Committee meeting.
- o Internal Audit – Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals
 - o Summary of FY '26 Annual Audit Plan progress and internal audits completed
 - o Summary of External Audits Completed and in-progress
 - o Other OIA office updates
- b. Report from the Office of Compliance and Ethics: Mr. Brad Boswell, Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer, gave a report on the Top Enterprise Risks as reported to the UNC System Office in June, 2025.
- c. Report from Information Technology Services: Mr. Keith Werner, Chief Information Officer, gave a report from Information Technology Services on cybersecurity and AI. Joining him in the presentation were Jim Webb, Chief Information Security Officer, and Carson Patterson, a Graduate Student in Applied Data Analytics who served as an AI Intern in ITS

4. Closed Session:

Chair Greene called for a motion to enter into closed session at 3:42 p.m. A motion was made by Trustee Wayne Sumner that the Committee adjourn the open session and convene in closed session to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 126-22, 132-6.1(c), and Section 143-318.11(a)(1). The motion was approved.

5. Reconvene Open Session / Adjournment:

Chair Greene reconvened the Open Session at 3:52 p.m. Upon return from closed session, noting there being no further business, Chair Greene adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

ANITA GREENE, Chair

By: Paul Pusateri
Recording Secretary

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Friday, December 5, 2025

10:00 a.m.

App State Hickory Campus

800 17th St NW, Hickory, NC 28601

CALL TO ORDER: The Finance and Operations Committee of the Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University met at the call of the Chair and the Chancellor on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 10:05 a.m. at the App State Hickory Campus. Chair James Harris presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Ricks, Board Chair
Thomas Sofield, Board Vice Chair
James Harris, Committee Chair
Jeff Chesson
Tamela Everett
Anita Greene
James Reaves
Jamie Schaefer
Kim Shepherd
Wayne Sumner
Nicole Tran
William Warren
Steven Wyatt

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gov. Philip Byers
Chancellor Norris
Dawn Antonucci
David Cook
Megan Hayes
JJ Brown
Matt Dull
Brad Cooper
Neva Specht
Will Sears
Kristen Bonatz
Sarah Rupp
Anna Oakes
Brad Boswell
Jeff Pierce

Troy Fisher
Thomas May
Mike McKenzie
Jim Westerman
Mike Madritch
Jamie Parson
Adryona Nelson
Amy Wood
Sue Polanka
Hampton Smith
Mark Bradbury
Shanshan Lou
Chase Reynolds
Valerie Norris

CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTICE:

Chair James Harris read the following: "Under the State Government Ethics Act, all voting members of the Board of Trustees have a duty to avoid 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? [None reported]

ROLL CALL: Chair Harris asked Valerie Norris to call roll. Mrs. Norris completed the roll call and confirmed we had a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the September 4, 2025 meeting of the Finance and Operations Committee were made available for members to review in advance in BoardEffect. Without objections, the minutes were approved.

FY 2027 TUITION AND FEE PROPOSAL: Chair Harris recognized Brad Cooper, Chief Financial Officer, who presented the tuition and fee proposal for Fiscal Year 2027. A motion was made by Trustee Shepherd and seconded by Trustee Reaves to approve the proposed tuition and fee increases as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

FEMA AND INSURANCE UPDATE: Chair Harris recognized JJ Brown, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, who presented FEMA and Insurance updates for information only.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AUTHORIZATIONS: Chair Harris recognized JJ Brown, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, who presented the following capital project for approval:
a) Tennis Court Repair

A motion was made by Trustee Wyatt to approve this capital project as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Everett. The motion was approved unanimously.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES: Chair Harris recognized J.J. Brown, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, who presented the Capital Projects Update. This presentation was for information only.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chair Harris declared the meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

James Harris, Chair



Valerie C. Norris

Recording Secretary