MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Friday, March 20, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Grandview Ballroom
North End Zone Facility

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University met at the call of the Chair and the Chancellor in the North End Zone Facility of Appalachian State University on Friday, March 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.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
OTHERS PRESENT:	Dawn Antonucci Kristen Bonatz JJ Brown Philip Byers David Cook Brad Cooper Doug Gillin Megan Hayes Heather Norris, Chancellor 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."

[Trustee Nicole Tran recused herself from discussion and voting on the Plemmons Leadership Medallion Nominations agenda item]

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 approved to participate in closed session join him in Breakout Room AB. Chair Ricks stated the livestream would be closed as the Board convened in closed session and that once the Board returned to open session the livestream would 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) (l)];
>
> 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 10:38 a.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 four action items and two information items.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Faculty Handbook Changes

Senior Vice Provost, Jamie Parson, presented some technical updates to the handbook that were required in order to ensure the Faculty Handbook is compliant with UNC System Policies. These updates were provided to the board as Exhibits A-1A and A-1B in Board Effect.

Student Presentations

Interim Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Jeff Cathey, introduced Sydney McKee, a graduate student from Morehead City, NC, and Ella Bolz, a Senior from Wilmington, NC. Sydney and Ella are highly engaged students serving with the Appalachian State University Police Department and Mountaineer Medics. Their presentations demonstrated how their involvement with these campus agencies, along with their service work and community involvement, have impacted their experience as students and their preparation for careers beyond App State.

Promotion and Tenure

Promotion and Tenure recommendations came through committee in two separate motions.

The committee presented their faculty promotion recommendations to the Board for approval. Promotions were approved as presented.

The committee presented their faculty tenure recommendations to the Board for approval. Tenure recommendations were approved as presented.

Faculty Emeritus

The committee presented their Faculty Emeritus recommendations to the Board for approval. Faculty Emeritus recommendations were approved as presented.

Plemmons Leadership Medallion Nominations

The committee presented their Plemmons Leadership Medallion Nominations to the Board for approval. Plemmons Leadership Medallion Nominations were approved as presented.

BCBS NC Endowed Professorship Changes

The committee recommended approval of updates to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Endowed Professorship in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Since the time of its original establishment, the department has merged with two other departments in the Beaver College of Health Sciences and is now the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences. The updates to the professorship expand the scope to include the full department structure. The update will ensure that the endowment continues to support the breadth of interdisciplinary work taking place across these programs. These updates were presented in Exhibit A-5 on the Consent Agenda.

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Chesson reported the December 5, 2025, Athletics Committee meeting minutes were approved.

Student Presentations

The Committee heard presentations from App State Football Student-Athlete, Colton Phares, and App State Tennis Student-Athlete, Savanna Dada-Mascoll.

UNC Intercollegiate Athletics Survey

Director of Athletics, Doug Gillin, provided an overview of the UNC Intercollegiate Athletics Survey report, in which no corrective action was required.

Athletics Update

Director of Athletics, Doug Gillin, provided an athletics update highlighting the following:

- App State student-athletes excelled both in and outside the classroom, achieving a cumulative GPA above 3.0 for the 27th consecutive semester.
- App State hosted multiple athletics events in the Hickory area, including the Men's Basketball Hickory Hoops Classic at Lenoir-Rhyne University in December, where App State defeated High Point University in overtime. App State Baseball hosted multiple opponents at L.P. Frans Stadium, which is located only about a mile from App State Hickory Campus.
- App State Wrestling earned a share of the Southern Conference Regular Season Championship and their fourth straight Tournament Championship. App State Softball had their best start in program history, winning eight of their first nine games.
- Ongoing projects include construction of the new Sofield Family Indoor Practice Facility, the Advanced Planning Process for the East Tower project at Kidd Brewer Stadium, and Baseball Indoor Hitting Facility extension.
- The 2026 Football schedule has been released.

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 considered two action items. The Committee approved an updated "Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee Charter" and also approved an updated "Internal Audit Charter." These items are included on the consent agenda for full board consideration and approval.

Information items discussed:

1. The committee received a review of the objectives and results of the University's FY2025 financial audit from State Auditor Dave Boliek and Senior Audit Manager Kris Collum.
2. The committee received a report from Brad Boswell, Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer, regarding the Office of Compliance and Ethics. This included updates on the progress of the University's Compliance and Ethics Program Plan, which was adopted by this board last year. Mr. Boswell also provided an overview of the shifting athletics compliance environment and the proactive measures the athletics compliance office is implementing to ensure alignment with new standards.
3. The committee was informed of a recent recognition of the University Finance Team as they received the State Auditor's Award of Excellence for the Fiscal Year 2024 audit. This award recognizes entities that are timely, with no significant audit adjustments, no audit findings, and no delays or other issues during the audit process.
4. The committee reviewed progress on the FY '26 annual audit plan and a report on the internal audits that have been completed since the previous ARC Committee meeting.
5. The committee reviewed the external audits currently in progress and completed since the last meeting.

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 December 5, 2025, Finance and Operations committee meeting. They considered three action items included in the consent agenda for approval.

1. The first action item was a presentation on the All-Funds Budget. Chief Financial Officer Brad Cooper presented the All-Funds Budget which, once approved, will be submitted to the UNC System Office.
2. The second action item is the requested approval of three Capital Project Authorizations. The Dining Master Plan Phase II, Campus Master Plan, and a Peacock Hall authorization increase.
3. The third action item was a T-Mobile cell phone Tower Lease.

There were also three information items:

1. The committee heard a presentation from University Operations intern, Hampton Smith. Hampton is a senior within the Walker College of Business and will be graduating this May.

2. The next information item was an update on the Master Plan presented by Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer JJ Brown.
3. The last information item was an update on current capital projects presented by Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer JJ Brown.

BOARD CHAIR UPDATE: Chair Ricks provided this report. App State's Board of Trustees recent self-evaluation was conducted through an online survey of questions which asked about board roles and responsibilities, board engagement, and board operations.

The survey was administered by email from February 12 through February 27, 2026 and the response rate was 92 percent, with 12 of the 13 Board members completing the survey. Overall, the responses were overwhelmingly positive.

Detailed survey results and a copy of the full report were provided in Board Effect. Per UNC Policy Manual 200.4. a summary report will be submitted to the president and BOG.

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

Meeting Minutes 12.5.25
Distinguished Professorship Revisions - EXHIBIT A-5
Audit, Risk & Compliance (ARC) Charter - EXHIBIT C-1
Internal Audit Charter - EXHIBIT C-2
All Funds Budget - EXHIBIT D-1
Capital Project Authorizations
- a. Dining Master Plan (Phase II) - EXHIBIT D-2A
- b. Campus Master Plan - EXHIBIT D-2B
- c. Peacock Hall Addition - EXHIBIT D-2C

T-Mobile Cell Tower Lease - EXHIBIT D-3

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Mark E. Ricks, Chair

By: David Cook

David Cook
Assistant Secretary

Remarks from the March 20th, 2026 Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Friday, March 20, 2026

Thank you, Chair Ricks, and good morning, everyone! It's so nice to have you here on this lovely spring day in Boone.

This morning, I'll share updates on three key strategic initiatives we are working on, in order to place App State in the best possible position for success as we enter a new chapter in our history.

We're making great progress on the planning phases for:

- our Strategic Plan — which will guide our direction for who we will become as a university in the next two, five, 10 years and beyond;
- our Master Plan — which will be a living guide for the university's long-term physical infrastructure development in ways that support the strategic goals of the institution; and
- our Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign — through which we will secure private funding to support the initiatives we identify as priorities during our planning processes.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank this board for your engagement in these interrelated projects.

We're also including students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and community leaders from the High Country and Catawba Valley — as well as our Foundation Board and Board of Visitors — in the processes for each of these enterprisewide plans.

As shared during lunch yesterday, the strategic planning process is underway, and I'm very pleased with our progress thus far.

We've conducted a series of interviews, as well as focus group sessions — to which all faculty and staff were invited. Undergraduate and graduate students from both the Boone and Hickory campuses — as well as online students — have also been engaged, and additional groups, including community leaders and others, are scheduled in the coming days. Following these sessions, we'll be sending a comprehensive survey to a wide group of constituents to gather additional input.

Once all focus groups and surveys are complete, representative committees — to include board participation — will compile the data and develop initial plan pillars and goals, on which we will seek your feedback, before scheduling a final vote of this board later this year. I appreciate the broad participation we've had so far, and I hope you, like I, will find the process to be insightful and engaging.

I look forward to our continued progress, and I am excited about developing a strong and bold vision for the future of our institution together with you!

Our university Master Plan, which will be a living guide for the university's long-term development in ways that support our strategic goals, is also moving forward steadily.

We've conducted a series of interviews and workshops, as well as a comprehensive survey that was sent to a wide group of constituents, to gather additional input. Following the interviews, focus groups and surveys, we will compile the data and develop initial plan goals and objectives for feedback, before scheduling a final vote of this board later this year.

Of course, the Strategic Plan and accompanying Master Plan will inform our Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign.

It's been more than a decade since our last comprehensive fundraising campaign, and I'm excited to begin this process. We're actively engaged in the feasibility study now and we're learning a great deal.

As part of the process, we're engaging university leaders — including division leaders, deans and department chairs — about their strategic priorities, in alignment with the strategic planning and master planning process, as well as through our annual strategic budget review, which is coming up next month.

We're also engaging donors, Foundation Board and Board of Trustees members and we truly appreciate your involvement, guidance and support as we endeavor to advance our university in significantly meaningful ways. We look forward to sharing with you the results of the feasibility study as they become available, and, of course, we will continue to keep you informed about all of these major initiatives as they continue to develop.

We have incredible engagement in place from alumni and supporters from across the country, and as we know, that engagement can — and is — evolving into significant support with incredible impact.

Vice Chancellor of University Advancement Will Sears and his team are having a successful year! With four months left in the fiscal year in sight, they're on track to achieve the second-best fundraising year in university history.

Two particular points of pride I'll point out:

- Scholarship fundraising is at an all-time high, with just under $12 million raised — the most ever at this point in the fiscal year. As we know, this has a direct and meaningful impact on student access and success. I'm so appreciative of all of you who have made this a priority.

- Since March of 2024, the university's endowment has grown from just over $163 million to nearly $240 million. This is a 47% increase, a record level for the university and an important indicator of long-term financial strength.

We continue to have strong momentum in philanthropy, and we are grateful for the continued generosity of our donors. With just under a week before our upcoming Appalachian State Giving Day, we're looking forward to continuing that momentum!

As I've shared before, 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.

We're well diversified across our funding sources, and fortunate to be in a state that is third in state funding per student among the top ten most populous states in the nation.

We also appreciate strong support from our Board of Governors, which is paired with an expectation for pragmatic, administrative cost-cutting measures. Thank you, Gov. Byers, for that support!

As you know, last month, the Board of Governors voted to approve our request to increase tuition rates — after nearly a decade of keeping resident tuition flat. For returning App State students who are enrolled for up to eight consecutive semesters, tuition will remain fixed under the state's guaranteed tuition program.

As our Board of Governors Chair, Wendy Murphy, shared in an op-ed last month, this was a deeply considered decision by the board, and Chair Murphy also shared that even with this increase, resident tuition across the UNC System will remain among the lowest in the nation.

Support from our legislature, the Board of Governors and this board allows us to provide our students with a high-quality, cost-effective education and ensure a strong emphasis on student success. It also ensures we have the resources to proactively identify, at just the right time, those students who need support.

During the joint meeting of the board's Budget and Finance and External Affairs committees, I was able to share App State's perspective on how meaningful legislative support is to our university.

We can enhance and coordinate our services, so that all students have the help they need — particularly at critical times — to drive their own success, complete their degrees on time and contribute to the civic and economic health of their communities across the state and region.

North Carolina has been ranked the top state for business for the third year, and this year, our state was also ranked the top state in the nation for workforce development.

As our state continues to develop and expand goals and strategies that support economic growth, there are significant opportunities for expanding access to a high-quality, cost-effective education that can transform lives — and build the skills and innovations in these communities that are needed for our future. App State is an active and enthusiastic partner in these ambitious goals for our state.

App State's founding commitment to being active stewards of our state's financial, cultural, natural and human resources holds true to this day. This is evidenced not only in our student graduation rates and ROI data, but also in our business practices.

My leadership team and I hold as paramount our responsibility to steward the resources provided to us by the taxpayers of our state, and — through engaged scholarship — we transform theory into practice.

- I'm proud that our university was recently recognized among 25 best-in-class colleges named to Washington Monthly's "2025 Best Colleges for Your Tuition (and Tax) Dollars" rankings list …
- I'm proud that we hold top national rankings for our online education programs, across business, education and health sciences disciplines …
- I'm proud that enrollment of our online students has increased for the sixth consecutive year, with App State Online students representing more than

16% of the total student population, thanks in large part to our Project Kitty Hawk-supported Flight Path programs, which are tailored specifically to meet the needs of place-bound adult learners …

- I'm proud that for nine consecutive years, we've been recognized nationally for developing dynamic and innovative pathways to support community college transfer students …
- I'm proud that we are among 60 institutions in the nation chosen to join a national network focused on advancing success for first-generation students…
- I'm proud that we are among the top five institutions in the nation for military-affiliated students …
- I'm proud that we're the top school in the nation for the 10th consecutive year for having the most alumni who are National Board Certified Teachers …
- I'm proud that we're one of only 277 higher education institutions in the nation to earn the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation; and
- I'm proud that we're recognized for our community engagement at the local level, having just been named Watauga County's 2025 Large Business of the Year by the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce.

While these are all outstanding points of pride, it's the human impact that is most meaningful, and I'd like to share an example of that with you now.

Dr. JP Jameson, a professor in the Department of Psychology, is doing incredible, lasting work that is making communities safer throughout our region.

In response to critical public health issues in our area, he has implemented suicide prevention and rapid-response diversion programs for children and teens, working with local health departments, school districts and community organizations to provide reliable, accessible, critical and crisis care that is available for children and families when they need it the most.

Last month, Dr. Jameson was honored by the Board of Governors for his work with the esteemed James E. Holshouser Jr. Award, which recognizes faculty who exemplify the UNC System's commitment to service and community engagement. I'd like to thank Gov. Byers for his part in ensuring Dr. Jameson's work was recognized among our sister institutions and throughout the state.

The UNC System made a video showcasing Dr. Jameson and his critically important work, which was shared at the board meeting, and which I would like to share with you now.

I think we can all agree that it's faculty, like Dr. Jameson, that reinforce our passion for higher education and our pride in Appalachian State University.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report, and I'd just like to share a quick reminder to the board members that all of the points of pride and stories I have shared today — and plenty more — are at your fingertips when you log into Board Effect.

APPENDIX A

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

Thursday, March 19, 2026
Meeting Room AB
End Zone Facility

CALL TO ORDER: The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University met at the call of the Chair and the Chancellor on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Vice Chair Warren presided and called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Will Warren, Vice Chair
Tamela Everett
Anita Greene
Nicole Tran
Jamie Schaefer
Jeff Chesson
James K. Reaves
Kim Shepherd
Wayne Sumner
Steve Wyatt

MEMBERS ABSENT:
None

OTHERS PRESENT:
Chancellor Norris
Dawn Antonucci
Kristen Bonatz
J.J. Brown
Johnny Brown
Kathy Brown
Ashley Colquitt
Brad Cooper
Katie Fields
David Jamison
Shanshan Lou
Mike McKenzie
Adryona Nelson
Sarah Rupp
Neva Specht
Melba Spooner
Jim Westerman
Amy Wood

CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTICE: Vice Chair Warren 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."

Trustee Nicole Tran recused herself from a vote in closed session due to a conflict of interest.

OPENING STATEMENT ON EXPECTATIONS OF CONDUCT: Vice Chair Warren 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.

BUSINESS ITEM: Faculty Handbook Changes

Senior Vice Provost, Jamie Parson, presented technical updates that were required in order to ensure the Faculty Handbook is compliant with UNC System Policies. These can be found in Exhibits A-1A and A-1B in your BoardEffect materials.

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS:

Interim Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Jeff Cathey, introduced Sydney McKee, a graduate student from Morehead City, NC, and Ella Bolz, a Senior from Wilmington, NC. Sydney and Ella are highly engaged students serving with the Appalachian State University Police Department and Mountaineer Medics. Their presentations were exceptional, and demonstrated how their involvement with these campus agencies, along with their service work and community involvement, have impacted their experience as students and their preparation for careers beyond their time at App State.

CLOSED SESSION:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee 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)(l)];

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), 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 Academic Affairs Committee reconvened in open session at 11:40 a.m.

BUSINESS ITEM: Promotion and Tenure Recommendations

Vice Chair Warren requested a motion that the Committee approve all promotion recommendations as presented and discussed in Exhibit A-2A. A motion was made by Tamela Everett and seconded by Anita Greene to approve all promotion recommendations. The motion passed.

Vice Chair Warren requested a motion that the Committee approve all tenure recommendations as presented and discussed in Exhibit A-2B. A motion was made by Jamie Schaefer and seconded by Anita Greene to approve all tenure recommendations. The motion passed.

BUSINESS ITEM: Emeritus Requests

Vice Chair Warren requested a motion that the Committee approve all Emeritus Requests as presented and discussed in Exhibit A-3. A motion was made by Anita Greene and seconded by Tamela Everett. The motion passed.

BUSINESS ITEM: Plemmons Leadership Medallions

Vice Chair Warren requested a motion that the Committee approve the Plemmons Leadership Medallions as presented and discussed in Exhibit A-4. A motion was made by Anita Greene and seconded by Jamie Schaefer. The motion passed.

BUSINESS ITEM: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Carolina Distinguished Professorship Changes

Dean Marie Huff of the Beaver College of Health Sciences presented proposed changes to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Carolina Distinguished Professorship in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Since the time of its original establishment, the department has merged with two other departments in the Beaver College of Health Sciences and is now the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences. The updates to the professorship expand the scope to include the full department structure. The update will ensure that the endowment continues to support the breadth of interdisciplinary work taking place across these programs.

Vice Chair Warren requested a motion that the Committee approve the changes to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Carolina endowed Professorship in Rehabilitation Sciences as presented in Exhibit A-5. A motion was made by J.K. Reaves and seconded by Jeff Chesson. The motion passed and the item will be located on the Consent Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Will Warren, Vice Chair

By: Kathryn V. Brown
Kathy Brown
Recording Secretary

APPENDIX B

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

Thursday, March 19, 2026
2:15 p.m.
Meeting Room AB
North End Zone Facility

CALL TO ORDER: The Athletics Committee of the Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University met at the call of the Chair and the Chancellor in the North End Zone Facility on the campus of Appalachian State University on Friday, March 19, 2026, at 2:15 p.m.. Committee Chair 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 Shepherd
Thomas Sofield
Wayne Sumner
Nicole Tran
Will Warren
Steven Wyatt

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dawn Antonucci
Kristen Bonatz
JJ Brown
Philip Byers
David Cook
Brad Cooper
Doug Gillin
Megan Hayes
Savannah Dada-Mascoll
Heather Norris, Chancellor
Colton Phares
Will Sears
Neva Specht

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]

Chair Chesson 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 Chesson asked David Cook to call roll to verify all participants at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chair Chesson stated the December 5, 2025 Athletics Committee meeting minutes were previously made available in the Board Materials. Without objection, the Minutes stand approved.

STUDENT-ATHLETE PROFILE: The Committee heard presentations from App State Football Student-Athlete, Colton Phares, and App State Tennis Student-Athlete, Savannah Dada-Mascoll.

UNC INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS SURVEY: Director of Athletics, Doug Gillin, provided an overview of the UNC Intercollegiate Athletics Survey report, in which no corrective action was required.

COMMENTS FROM DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS: Director of Athletics, Doug Gillin, provided an athletics update highlighting the following:

- App State student-athletes excelled both in and outside the classroom, achieving a cumulative GPA above 3.0 for the 27th consecutive semester.
- App State hosted multiple athletics events in Hickory, including the Men's Basketball Hickory Hoops Classic in December, where App State defeated High Point University in overtime. App State Baseball hosted multiple opponents at L.P. Frans Stadium, which is located in close proximity to App State Hickory Campus.
- App State Wrestling earned a share of the Southern Conference Regular Season Championship and their fourth straight Tournament Championship. App State Softball had their best start in program history, winning eight of their first nine games.
- Ongoing projects include construction of the new Sofield Family Indoor Practice Facility, the Advanced Planning Process for the East Tower project at Kidd Brewer Stadium, and Baseball Indoor Hitting Facility extension.
- The 2026 Football schedule has been released.

CLOSED SESSION: Chair Chesson called on Trustee Wyatt to share a motion for the committee to convene in closed session. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the motion was approved.

Chair Chesson asked that everyone be excused, with the exception of those approved to participate in Closed Session. The livestream closed as the committee convened in closed session and resumed once the committee returned to open session.

OPEN SESSION RECONVENED AND ADJOURNMENT: Chair Chesson reconvened the open session. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Cook
Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026
Location: Appalachian State University, North End Zone Facility, Boone Campus
Time: 10:00 A.M.
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:

Anita Greene, Chair
Wayne Sumner, Vice Chair
Jeff Chesson
James Reaves
Nicole Tran
Mark Ricks
Jamie Schaefer
Kim Shepherd
Thomas Sofield
Will Warren
Steve Wyatt

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chancellor Heather Norris
Neva Specht
JJ Brown
Kristen Bonatz
David Jamison
Kristi Gragg
David Cook
Dawn Antinoucci
Brad Boswell
Daniel Lightfoot
Jody Miller
Sorina McInturff
Will Sears
Sarah Rupp
Jamie Parson
Paul Pusateri
Brad Cooper
Katie Fields

Present (Via Zoom): State Auditor Dave Bolick, OSA Sr. Audit Manager Kris Collum

1. Call to Order, Conflict of Interest Notice:

Chair Greene called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

Recording Secretary Paul Pusateri called the roll and a quorum was confirmed. Trustee Everett and Trustee Harris were absent.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The December 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. Presentation of the FY 2025 Financial Statement Audit Report

Chair Greene introduced the committee to State Auditor Dave Boliek and Senior Audit Manager Kris Collum who presented via Zoom the results of the 2025 Financial Statement Audit Report for the University.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT: State Auditor Dave Boliek and Senior Audit Manager Kris Collum, Office of the State Auditor, provided the committee with a review of the June 30, 2025 Financial Statement Audit Report for the University.

4. Agenda Items and Discussion:

a. Report from the Office of Compliance and Ethics: Mr. Brad Boswell, Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer, gave a report on:
   - Compliance Program updates
   - University insurance updates
   - Athletics Compliance Updates

b. Report from Internal Audit: Mrs. Kristi Gragg, Interim Chief Audit Officer, shared a report on activity since the prior ARC Committee meeting.
   - Recognition of Award of Excellence - The University has received the State Auditor's Award of Excellence for the Fiscal Year 2024 audit. This award recognizes entities that are timely, with no significant audit adjustments, no audit findings, and no delays or other issues during the audit process. Appreciation was extended to CFO Brad Cooper and University Controller David Jamison and their teams.
   - Summary of FY ‘26 Annual Audit Plan progress and internal audits completed
   - Summary of External Audits Completed
   - Other Office of Internal Audits Updates

5. Approval of Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee Charter – EXHIBIT C-1: Chair Greene called for a motion to approve the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee Charter – Exhibit C-1. Upon motion made by Trustee Sumner and seconded by Trustee Reaves, the charter was approved as presented.

6. Approval of Internal Audit Charter – EXHIBIT C-2: Chair Greene called for a motion to approve the Internal Audit Charter – Exhibit C-2. Upon motion made by Trustee Sumner and seconded by Trustee Reaves, the charter was approved as presented.

7. Closed Session:

Chair Greene called for a motion to enter into closed session at 10:35 a.m. A motion was made by Trustee Sumner that the Committee adjourn the open session and convene in closed session for the reasons stated in the publicly available materials.

8. Reconvene Open Session / Adjournment:

Chair Greene reconvened the Open Session at 10:43 a.m. Upon return from closed session, noting there being no further business, Chair Greene adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

ANITA GREENE, Chair

By: Paul Pusateri
Recording Secretary

APPENDIX D

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

Thursday, March 19, 2026
1:00 p.m.
Meeting Room A/B
North End Zone Facility

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 Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the North End Zone facility on Appalachian State University's Boone Campus. Chair James Harris presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

Brad Boswell
Marshall Parks
Kristie Gragg
Katie Fields
Kathryn Long
Elizabeth Riede
Josh Bolick
Jamie Parson
Adryona Nelson
Melody Pineda
Sue Polanka
Hampton Smith
Mark Bradbury
Shanshan Lou
Brandon Nelson
Jennifer Geouque
Kristie Beach
Dale Carter
Valerie Norris

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

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]

EXPECTATONS OF CONDUCT:
Chair James Harris read the following: "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." [None reported]

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the December 5, 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.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS STUDENT INTERN: Chair Harris recognized JJ Brown, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, who introduced Hampton Smith. Hampton then presented regarding his time this year as an intern for University Operations.

ALL FUNDS BUDGET: Chair Harris recognized Brad Cooper, Chief Financial Officer, who presented the All Funds Budget

A motion was made by Trustee Wyatt to approve the All Funds Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sheperd. The motion was approved unanimously.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AUTHORIZATIONS: Chair Harris recognized JJ Brown, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, who presented the following capital project for approval:
a) Dining Master Plan - Phase II
b) Campus Master Plan
c) Peacock Hall Addition

A motion was made by Trustee Sumner to approve these capital projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Everett. The motion was approved unanimously.

T-MOBILE CELL TOWER LEASE: Chair Harris recognized JJ Brown, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, who presented the T-Mobile Cell Tower Lease for approval.

A motion was made by Trustee Green to approve this lease as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shaefert. The motion was approved unanimously.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE: Chair Harris recognized J.J. Brown, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, who presented the Master Plan Update. This presentation was for information only.

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

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chair Harris declared the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

James Harris, Chair

Respectfully submitted by: Valerie C. Norris

Valerie C. Norris
Recording Secretary