MINUTES
MEETING OF THE APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES RETREAT

Tuesday & Wednesday, June 16 & 17, 2026
The Grand Bohemian Lodge

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University met for a retreat at the call of the Chair & the Chancellor on Tuesday & Wednesday, June 16 & 17, 2026, at 9:05 a.m. at The Grand Bohemian Lodge in Asheville, NC. Chair Mark Ricks presided and called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Jeffries Chesson Tamela Everett Lizzie Ford Anita Greene James Harris James Reaves Mark Ricks, Chair Jamie Schaefer Thomas Sofield Wayne Sumner William Warren Steven Wyatt
MEMBERS PRESENT BY PHONE:	Kimberly Shepherd
OTHERS PRESENT:	Dawn Antonucci Kristen Bonatz JJ Brown C. Philip Byers, UNC Board of Governor Andy Canada Brad Cooper Dennis Covington Wyatt Dixon Katie Fields Donna Fiori Doug Gillin Missy Harrill Christine Hendren Heather Norris, Chancellor Monica Saner Neva Specht Will Sears

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.

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

APPROVAL OF ABSENCES: None to report.

Chair Ricks recognized Chancellor Heather Norris to lead the group through discussion of the agenda items. Chancellor Norris recognized members of the Foundation Board, consultant Andy Canada and her leadership team for the following updates:

University Advancement Update

Consultant Andy Canada & Vice Chancellor Will Sears shared a University Advancement Update. Time was permitted for discussion. Chair Ricks thanked the Foundation Board members and Consultant Andy Canada for their participation in the morning session of the retreat.

MEETING PAUSED FOR RECESS: Chair Ricks called for a motion to convene in recess for lunch. Upon motion duly made, and seconded, the meeting paused for recess at 12:00 p.m.

[Foundation Board members and Consultant Andy Canada departed at this time and Chair Ricks called the meeting to order at 100 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF ABSENCES: None to report.

CLOSED SESSION: Chair Ricks recognized Vice Chair Sofield for a motion 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 voting Trustees, Chancellor Norris, Board of Governors member Phillip Byers, Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost, Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice Chancellor, Chief of Staff, Director of Athletics and Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity & General Counsel, Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Chief Financial Officer.

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

prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes section 126-22 and 132.6.1(c) in accordance with [N.C.G.S § 143-318.11(a)(1)];

consult with our 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 an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee in accordance with [N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6)].

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION: Upon motion duly made, seconded, and approved, the Board reconvened in open session at 1:48 p.m.

Chair Ricks thanked the group and invited Chancellor Heather Norris to lead the group through discussion of the remaining agenda items. Chancellor Norris recognized Trustee Kim Shephard and members of her leadership team for the following updates:

Strategic Planning Update

Trustee Kim Shephard provided an update from the May 11 Strategic Planning Meeting. Time was permitted for discussion.

Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Update

Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost Neva Specht provided an enrollment update, highlighting current enrollment trends, recruitment strategies, and challenges facing higher education. She also reviewed opportunities to strengthen enrollment, retention, and student success through strategic investments, expanded academic pathways, scholarship support, and campus-wide student success initiatives. Time was permitted for discussion.

Research and Innovation Update

Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Christine Hendren provided an update on the University's research and innovation enterprise, including continued growth in research expenditures and external funding supporting App State's R2 Carnegie classification. She also highlighted areas of research excellence and opportunities to advance workforce development, student-engaged research, and regional impact. Time was permitted for discussion.

Athletics Update

Director of Athletics Doug Gillin provided an update on the evolving collegiate athletics landscape, athletics facility projects, and recent competitive accomplishments. He highlighted progress on several facility projects and reviewed conference championships, student-athlete achievements, and notable team finishes during the 2025-26 season. Time was permitted for discussion.

Finance & Operations Update

Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer J.J. Brown provided an update on the University's master planning process, including long-term planning for capital investments, campus experience, space utilization, and project priorities. Mr. Brown also reviewed the status of major capital projects underway across the Boone and Hickory campuses. Time was permitted for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and approved, to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By: ____________________

Katie Fields
Interim Assistant Secretary