

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES VIA CONFERENCE CALL
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, May 26, 2020
10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University met via conference call in open session at the call of the Chair and the Chancellor on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., Chair John M. Blackburn presided and called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE:

James M. Barnes
M. Lee Barnes, Jr.
Donald C. Beaver
John M. Blackburn
Scott K. Lampe
Charles V. Murray
James K. Reaves
Mark E. Ricks
E. Bonnie Schaefer
Kimberly M. Shepherd
R. Thomas Sofield
Carole P. Wilson

CONSTITUENCY REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT VIA ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE:

Michael C. Behrent, Chair
Faculty Senate
Donna Fiori, President
Alumni Council
Mallory Sadler, Chair
Staff Senate

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE:

Dawn Antonucci
Mark Bachmeier
Philip C. Byers, Member, UNC
Board of Governors
Sheri Everts, Chancellor
Hank Foreman
Paul Forte
Doug Gillin
Megan Hayes
Paul Meggett

CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTICE: Chair Blackburn 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 Blackburn asked Dawn Antonucci to call roll to verify all participants on the call.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Chair Blackburn welcomed guests as confirmed during the roll call.

APPROVAL OF ABSENCE: None to report.

REMARKS FROM CHAIR JOHN M. BLACKBURN:

Chair Blackburn stated: “As we continue to navigate COVID-19, it is imperative that we all work together to keep our university’s mission moving forward while helping keep our community safe. Chair Blackburn thanked the Chancellor, her leadership team, faculty, staff, and students - the entire university community - for their efforts to achieve the core mission to educate students in the safest way possible given the challenges presented. He recognized the excellent job the university did in developing a virtual commencement ceremony for the May 2020 graduates. Graduation is a pinnacle for our students and, indeed, for our whole campus. While we missed the opportunity to celebrate together, the campus found a creative and safe way to celebrate these students and the faculty; staff, families and friends who helped make their achievements possible.”

CLOSED SESSION: Chair Blackburn announced that he would entertain a motion for the Board to convene in closed session. Chair Blackburn asked that the voting Trustees, Chancellor Everts, Governor Byers, Vice Chancellors, General Counsel, Chief Communication Officer, Director of Human Resources, Athletics Director, and the Assistant Secretary join the voting members in closed session.

Chair Blackburn stated the secondary telephone line would be closed to conduct closed session business. Should participants like to attend once open session is reconvened they can simply stay on the line and the host will reopen at the appropriate time.

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

- prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to North Carolina General Statute, Section 126-24 [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(1)]; and
- to preserve the attorney-client privilege [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (3)].

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED: Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Board reconvened in open session at 10:49 a.m.


Vote of Support

Chair Blackburn requested a show of support for Chancellor Everts, Interim Provost Norris, Athletics Director Doug Gillin and Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Paul Forte for decisions required due to the negative results of COVID – 19 in an effort to move the university forward in the least impactful way.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board issued a unanimous shared consensus and show of support for Chancellor Everts and her leadership team.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

John M. Blackburn, Chair

By: 
Dawn Antonucci,
Assistant Secretary