

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**

September 8, 2023

9:30 a.m.

H.F. Robinson Administration Building, Room 501A

The Board of Trustees of Western Carolina University (Board) met in regular session on September 8, 2023, in Room 501A of the H.F. Robinson Administration Building. Chair Greeley called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**The following members of the Board were present:**

Present from the Board: Chair Kathy Greeley, Ms. Haden Boliek, Mr. William Brawley, Ms. Becky Brown, Mr. Joe Crocker, Mr. Dan Field, Ms. Kathy Harrington, Mr. Tim Haskett, Mr. Ken Hughes, Mr. Jake Robinson, and Mr. CJ Mitchell.

**The following members of the Board were absent:** Mr. Casey Cooper (attended via Zoom) and Mr. Bob Roberts (attended via Zoom).

**Present – Faculty and staff of Western Carolina University:**

Chancellor Kelli R. Brown; Dr. Richard Starnes, Provost; Dr. Yancey Gulley, Faculty Senate Chair; Mr. Zachary Williams, Staff Senate Chair; Ms. Allison Hinson, Alumni Association President; Dr. Melissa Canady

**ETHICS STATEMENT**

Chair Greeley read the Ethics Statement as follows:

“As Chair of the Board of Trustees, it is my responsibility to remind all members of the Board of their duty under the State Government Ethics Act to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest as required by this Act. Each member has received the agenda and related information for this Board of Trustees’ meeting. If any Board member knows of any conflict of interest or appearance of

professionals, first responders or any working professionals in the greater Jackson County area. The complex will include a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units.

Chancellor Brown shared that she has initiated the search for the Inclusive Excellence Officer. She shared that Dr. Scott Eldredge, head of the Department of Communication, will be chair of the search committee. Chancellor Brown also shared a Legislative Update and shared that they expect to see a draft budget soon. She shared that she has been having conversations with President Hans and some legislators about the budget process and leadership is reassured that faculty and staff compensation remains a high priority from the General Assembly and feel similarly optimistic regarding Western's priority requests around a new engineering facility and engineering program expansion.

Chancellor Brown shared an update on the Campaign and shared that Western Carolina University launched the new name, branding, key priorities, and goals of the *Fill the Western Sky* comprehensive campaign. She shared that the *Fill the Western Sky* Campaign priorities will seek to secure philanthropic support for the promises that the university has made to its students and to the region it was founded to serve, doing so through three specific areas: academics, engagement, and athletics.

Chancellor Brown shared University Accolades with the board. She highlighted a few things happening at Western Carolina University, including that Western Carolina University was notified of a number of

Chair Greeley noted that many of the Trustees were able to attend the Association of Governing Board's conference in San Diego. She noted that Ms. Woods shared information on the conference in Boston, MA in March 2024. She asked the board to let Ms. Woods know of their attendance by November 30, 2023. \_\_\_\_\_

The UNC Board of Governors passed a revised version of Section 400.3.4 of the UNC Policy Manual, Policy on Faculty Workload. This revision is quite detailed and has requirements – including approval of the Board of Trustees – that require some additional administrative practices and processes. Academic Affairs will be convening a group of faculty and leaders to codify these practices in light of this policy change.

Dr. Starnes also provided several good news items regarding faculty, staff, students, programs, new leaders, and initiatives across Academic Affairs.

Ms. Boliek shared that Dr. Causby provided the Committee with 2023-2024 Legislative Increase (LI) and related compensation updates noting that any potential legislative increase (LI) is contingent on the approval of a new state budget. The UNC System Office has partnered with Buck Consulting to complete a comprehensive market analysis and update to current SHRA Salary Ranges. It is anticipated that these ranges will be released in late Fall.

The UNC Omnibus Bill (Senate Bill 195) passed in July 2023 granting authority to move SHRA staff positions that are exempt from federal overtime provisions to EHRA Non-Faculty under the purview of the UNC Board of Governors. Human Resources will work with eligible and interested SHRA staff to convert them to EHRA Non-Faculty.

Ms. Boliek shared that the committee was provided information regarding new hires in TAB C-2 of the Trustee materials; 17 faculty appointments, 22 administrative appointments, and 10 athletic appointments.

#### **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNANCE, AND TRUSTEESHIP COMMITTEE**

Chair Greeley recognized Mr. Cooper to give the report of the Administration, Governance, and Trusteeship Committee. The Administration, Governance, and Trusteeship received two discussion items and four information items.

The Legislative Update was provided by Ms. Christy Agner, Deputy Chief of Staff and External Relations Director. Ms. Agner shared an update on the activities to date of the long session of the NC General Assembly including new laws with impact on UNC institutions: UNC Omnibus Bill; 2023 Self-Liquidating Bill (which includes authorization for athletics facility improvements); Nondiscrimination and Dignity in State Work Act (Compelled Speech); Parents' Bill of Rights; School Threat Assessment Teams Act; Sports Wagering Bill; and Fairness in Women's Sports Act. The UNC System Office also assisted with the annual General Assembly appointments bill. The appointments bill contained UNC System institutional trustee appointments from the NC General Assembly, including one reappointment and one new appointment for WCU. Ms. Agner also provided an overview of WCU's legislative budget priorities that are still

**REPORT OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Chair Greeley recognized Mr. Haskett to give the report of the Finance and Audit Committee.  
The Finance and Audit Committee considered one action item, two diNAo

upcoming actions for the current academic year including Academic Policy and Review Council, Collegial Review Council, Faculty Affairs Council, and Rules Committee. Dr. Gulley shared the three resolutions that were passed in 2022-23. Dr. Gulley shared information on faculty hiring and retention for Fall 2022 – Fall 2023 and highlights of faculty accomplishments. (FACULTY SENATE REPORT IS IN REPORT MATERIALS ON FILE).

#### **STAFF SENATE INFORMATION REPORT**

Chair Greeley recognized Mr. Zachary Williams to give the Staff Senate Report. Mr. Williams provided the 2022-2023 Staff Senate Annual Report and list of current Staff Senators. He shared the Staff Senate Initiatives for 2023-24 and current focus areas. (STAFF SENATE REPORT IS IN REPORT MATERIALS ON FILE).

#### **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INFORMATION REPORT**

Chair Greeley recognized President Hinson to give the Alumni Association Report. President Hinson shared the Alumni Association Board Report. She shared that the Alumni Association held its annual meeting on June 16, 2023 and the board has officially begun operating under their new bylaws. She shared that the Alumni Board recognized and thanked several alumni for their service as they concluded their membership on the board of directors. President Hinson shared that the Alumni board meeting has been rescheduled for Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. (ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REPORT IS IN REPORT MATERIALS ON FILE.)

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Greeley asked for a motion to go into closed session. Mr. Cooper made a motion to go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information, or information not considered a public record pursuant to § NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3) as described on the September 8, 2023, Board of Trustees of Western Carolina University Closed Session Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brawley. The motion was unanimously approved by the board.

Chair Greeley asked Chancellor Brown and Mr. Browning to remain for closed session. Discussion followed on the Closed Session agenda items.

#### **RESUMPTION OF OPEN SESSION**

Chair Greeley asked for a motion to return to Open Session. Mr. Cooper made the motion to return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brawley. The board unanimously approved to return to Open Session.

#### **FCC REQUIRED BIENNIAL OWNERSHIP REPORT FOR 95.3 WVCU**

Chair Greeley recognized Mr. Shea Browning for the FCC REQUIRED Biennial Ownership Report for 95.3 WVCU. Mr. Browning shared that all Board members need to sign and file the reports.