The Board of Trustees
of
The University of North Carolina at Asheville

Special Meeting of May 16, 2009

MINUTES

The University of North Carolina at Asheville Board of Trustees met on Saturday, May 16, 2009 in the Highsmith Mountain Suites on the UNC Asheville Campus.

Trustees in attendance: Jim Buckner, David Cogburn, Joe Damore, Sue McClinton, Audrey Byrd Mosley, Doug Orr, Cissie Stevens, Pam Turner, Al Whitesides and new SGA President Cortland Mercer.

Trustees absent: Janice Brumit, Phil Carson, Virgil Smith.

Also in attendance: Chancellor Anne Ponder; Elizabeth Becker, Assistant in Chancellor’s Office and Notary Public; Janet Cone, Director of Athletics; Merianne Epstein, Director of News Services; Jane Fernandez, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Bill Haggard, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Tom Lawton, General Counsel; Bill Massey, Vice Chancellor for Alumni and Development; John Pierce, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Campus Operations; Christine Riley, Chief of Staff; Lynn Spaight, Assistant Secretary to the Board; Jill Yarnall, Associate Director of News Services; Jim Woodward, former Chancellor of UNC Charlotte; and Nathan Ramsey and Bruce Peterson, trustee designates for terms to begin July 1.

The meeting was called to order at 12:11 pm, Chair Al Whitesides, presiding. He asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Referencing the State Ethics Act, Chair Whitesides asked any trustees to declare if they had conflicts with any items for discussion on the agenda. None were disclosed.

Chair Whitesides asked Elizabeth Becker, assistant in the chancellor’s office and notary public to swear in Cortland Mercer as a new trustee.

Chair Whitesides recognized Chancellor Ponder and Vice Chancellor John Pierce for a report on the current fiscal year finances and next fiscal year budget. They reported that the current fiscal year’s budget has been cut by $2.4 million. Currently, all expenditures must receive approval from the State office of Budget and Management before payment can be made. State employees will receive a .05% cut, but taken over the months of May and June meaning each of those months’ pay will be cut by 3%. Next year’s budget is expected to be cut an estimated 7% to 12%. About 65% of those cuts will have to be personnel cuts.
Chancellor Ponder reported that the strategic plan is the basis for determining cuts with this order of priority:
1. Academic Core
2. Student Educational Experience
3. Re-affirming our accreditation
4. Fulfilling our Public Responsibility
5. Revenue generating activities and functions

There were questions regarding faculty being fully utilized with full classes and teaching load being distributed to full time versus adjunct faculty. Provost Jane Fernandes reported that low-enrollment classes have been cancelled and full time faculty members rather than adjuncts are being used to teach classes whenever possible. The faculty is reviewing how its work is done and will be working to improve the teaching load levels by next fall.

Chair Whitesides requested a motion to go into closed session for the following reasons:

- To prevent the premature disclosure of an honorary award or scholarship
- To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, or condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

As allowed by sections 143-318.11(a)(2) and (6) of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Jim Buckner made a motion for a closed session for the stated reasons, seconded by David Cogburn and the motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting returned to open 3:20 pm.

Chair Whitesides called for a motion to approve the tenure faculty report as recommended. David Cogburn moved approval, seconded by Jim Buckner and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Whitesides noted that Cissie Stevens will be resigning effective May 31. He thanked her for her service to the board.

Chair Whiteside declared the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 3:30 pm.

Submitted respectfully,

Lynn Spaight
Assistant Secretary to the Board

Date June 15, 2009

Approved,

Al Whitesides
Chair

Date June 15, 2009