

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**North Carolina State University**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina**  
**May 14, 2021**

The North Carolina State University Board of Trustees met in-person for a special called session on Friday, May 14, 2021 at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum. The purpose of the special called session was to conduct the self-assessment review required by the UNC Board of Governors' Policy 200.4.

Members present:                    Thomas E. Cabaniss, Chair  
   Robert F. Andrews III  
   Ann B. Goodnight  
   James A. Harrell, III  
   Stanhope A. Kelly  
   Wendell H. Murphy  
   Ven Poole  
   Perry Safran  
   Edwin J. Stack, III  
   Dewayne N. Washington  
   Edward I. Weisiger, Jr.  
   McKenzy Heavlin, *ex officio*

*Member Absent:*                    Ronald W. Prestage, DVM

Other Attendees:                    Randy Woodson, Chancellor  
   Paula Gentius, Assistant Board Secretary  
   Melanie Flowers, Former BOT Member  
   Allison Newhart, Vice Chancellor and General Counsel  
   Nancy Whelchel, Director of Survey Research  
   Joanne Soliday, Credo Consulting

Chair Cabaniss called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and a quorum was present. He reminded all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and any appearance of conflicts of interest under the State Government Ethics Act and inquired as to whether there were any known conflicts of interest or appearances of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the board at this meeting. Chair Cabaniss reminded those in attendance that while the full Board meeting is a public meeting, it is not a meeting for public comment and only those on the agenda will be permitted to speak.

Chair Cabaniss issued a charge to the Trustees encouraging discussion regarding the results of the self-assessment survey. Chancellor Woodson introduced the facilitator, Joanne Soliday, and presenter of the self-assessment survey results, Nancy Whelchel.

The board engaged in a facilitated activity designed for Trustees to learn more about each other. The results of the self-assessment survey were presented, and the facilitator outlined the top 3 areas identified in the survey: orientation to board service, education (knowledge of), and communication.

**Orientation to Board Service**

The volume of information and how this information is presented during a new member orientation should be reconsidered. Important information can be summarized in small portions and mini-orientations (or refreshers) would be helpful to current Trustees. A mentor-mentee program for Trustees was suggested as well as learning more about the differences between the board of trustees, board of governors and their respective powers.

**Education (Knowledge of)**

Several topics of interest related to education in general and specifically, higher education, were presented, including: ROI on MBAs, digital cheating, lessons learned from the pandemic, adult education and life-long learning strategies, community engagement, and student success and development.

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Communication

The board commended the Chancellor for keeping them abreast of the positive and not-so-positive news. The pandemic made communications “top of mind” for many and Trustees appreciated the consistent messaging with the university community. Having more retreats or opportunities for discussion at board meetings should be considered, but there is acknowledgement of the balance of allotted time and public meeting requirements. Trustees should consider attending committee agenda review meetings to receive more context for committee meetings, projects and issues that may come before them.

A brief conversation regarding standing committee structure occurred. No changes were suggested at this time. Joanne Soliday complimented the Board of Trustees and the administration on a very positive self-assessment and noted the same levels of effectiveness desired by both.

CLOSED SESSION

With no further business in open session, Assistant Secretary Gentius read the motion, seconded by Trustee Kelly, at 10:52 a.m. to go into closed session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of employment of a public officer or employee.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

At 11:05 a.m. the board came out of closed session. With no further business in open session, Chair Cabaniss adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

*Paula Gentius*

3D43B41060324C... Assistant Secretary

DocuSigned by:

*Ann Goodnight*

6C85EEA0360747D... Secretary

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

*Starr Kelly*

F498B66EEE344B0... Chair