

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Executive Committee of the NC State Board of Trustees

Meeting Agenda

Dorothy and Roy Park Alumni Center - Eury Room

2450 Alumni Drive

Raleigh, NC, 27606

Ed Weisiger, Jr., Chair

Members: Ed Stack, Tim Humphrey, Jim Harrell, Ven Poole

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Executive Committee of the NC State Board of Trustees

Meeting Agenda

8:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order, Public Meeting Notice and Reading of Ethics Statement
Ed Weisiger, Jr., Chair

A. Ethics Statement

2. Roll Call
Paula Gentius, Assistant Secretary

3. Executive Summary - Open Session

A. April 2024 - Open Session Executive Summary
Executive Committee

4. Approval of February 2024 Minutes

Action Item for
Committee

A. February 2024 Executive Committee Open Session
Minutes

5. Summer Meeting and Board Retreat

6. Proposed BOT Resolution: Reaffirmation of Academic Freedom, Freedom of Speech, and Institutional Neutrality

Action Item for
Committee and
Full Board

A. PROPOSED BOT Resolution April 2024

7. Executive Summary - Closed Session

8. Closed Session

9. Reconvene in Open Session

10. Adjourn



NORTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

SAMPLE¹

ETHICS AWARENESS & CONFLICT OF INTEREST REMINDER

(to be read by the Chair or his or her designee at the beginning of each meeting)

In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every [Board] member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict.

Does any [Board] member have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the [Board] today?

If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from any undue participation² in the particular matter involved.

Rev. 1-16-07

¹ N.C.G.S. §138A-15 (e): “At the beginning of any meeting of a board, the chair shall remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under [Chapter 138A].” There is no set language required by the Act. Specific language can and should be tailored to fit the needs of each covered board as necessary.

² “A public servant shall take appropriate steps, under the particular circumstances and considering the type of proceeding involved, to remove himself or herself to the extent necessary, to protect the public interest and comply with this Chapter, from any proceeding in which the public servant’s impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to the public servant’s familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in the proceeding.” See N.C.G.S. §138A-36 (c). If necessary, the Chairman or individual member involved should consult with his ethics liaison, legal counsel, or the State Ethics Commission to help determine the appropriate response in a given situation.



Open Session Executive Summary for
the Executive Committee Meeting
April 26, 2024

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Agenda Item: Open and Closed Session Minutes of the February 16, 2024 Executive Committee	6
Presenter: <i>Ed Weisiger, Jr., Chair</i>	
Summary: The open session minutes and the closed session minutes from the February 16, 2024 meeting are presented for approval.	
Action: Committee approval	
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Agenda Item: Proposed Board Resolution on Reaffirmation of Academic Freedom, Freedom of Speech, and Institutional Neutrality	10
Presenter: <i>Ed Weisiger, Jr., Chair</i>	
Summary: A proposed Board Resolution on Reaffirmation of Academic Freedom, Freedom of Speech, and Institutional Neutrality.	
Action: Committee and Full Board approval	

DRAFT
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina
February 16, 2024

The Executive Committee of the North Carolina State University Board of Trustees met in open session on Friday, February 16, 2024. The Trustees attended in person in the Eury Room at the Park Alumni Center.

Members present: Edward I. Weisiger, Jr., Chair
 James A. Harrell, III
 Timothy Humphrey
 Ven Poole, III
 Edwin J. Stack, III

Others present: Randy Woodson, Chancellor
 Paula Gentius, Assistant Secretary
 Allison Newhart, Vice Chancellor and General Counsel

Chair Weisiger called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and a quorum was present.

Chair Weisiger reminded all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances 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 Weisiger reminded those in attendance that while the Executive Committee meeting is a public meeting, it is not a meeting for public comment and only those on the agenda will be permitted to speak. He asked that all Trustees identify themselves before making or seconding a motion.

Chair Weisiger asked if there were any media representatives present. Three representatives from the *Technician* were present (Emily Vespa, Jameson Wolf, and Kate Denning).

MINUTES

Trustee Humphrey made the motion, seconded by Trustee Harrell, to approve the open and closed session minutes of the November 3, 2023 Executive Committee meeting. All members were in favor.

Harrell	AYE
Humphrey	AYE
Poole	AYE
Stack	AYE
Weisiger	AYE

The motion passed.

THE CHICAGO PRINCIPLES/STATEMENT DISCUSSION

Chair Weisiger and Chancellor Woodson discussed the Chicago Principles, sometimes called the Chicago Statement, with the executive committee. This document provides guidelines for protecting freedom of speech and freedom of expression on college campuses and has been adopted by several universities in recent years. Chair Weisiger stated that he has asked Chancellor Woodson to review the Principles, the university's policies on free speech, and make a recommendation to the board on whether the Chicago Principles should be adopted or some form of it.

2024 RETREAT DISCUSSION

Chair Weisiger opened the floor for a discussion on holding a Board of Trustees retreat in 2024. He reminded the Executive Committee that the Board of Trustees must conduct a self-evaluation every four years per UNC Policy 200.4, and the last self-evaluation was conducted in 2021. The last retreat was held in 2022 with Dr. Paul Friga where board efficiencies were the focus. Chair Weisiger stated that the board may want to consider holding a retreat in 2024 to discuss upcoming transition in leadership and consider inviting the Board of Governors Chair and Vice Chair, as well as the System President, to share their insight on chancellor searches and UNC Policy 200.8. The Executive Committee members were supportive of this idea.

CLOSED SESSION

With no business in open session, Chair Weisiger asked Assistant Secretary Gentius to read a motion to go into closed session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, or conditions of appointment of a present or prospective public officer. Trustee Harrell made the motion and Trustee Poole seconded. All members were in favor.

Harrell	AYE
Humphrey	AYE
Poole	AYE
Stack	AYE
Weisiger	AYE

The motion passed.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

At 8:23 a.m, the Executive Committee came out of closed session.

With no further business in open session, Chair Weisiger adjourned the meeting at 8:24 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Assistant Secretary

Secretary

Approved:

Chair

PROPOSED

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

RESOLUTION ON THE REAFFIRMATION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, AND INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY

WHEREAS, the University of North Carolina System and its constituent universities are “dedicated to the transmission and advancement of knowledge and understanding” and each recognizes that “academic freedom is essential to the achievement of these purposes;” and

WHEREAS, academic freedom, free speech and free expression are fundamental to the mission and purposes of NC State University; and

WHEREAS, free thought, expression, inquiry and dialogue continue to be critical to achieving the university’s mission in disseminating knowledge while promoting civil and respectful discourse and the Board of Trustees believes it should reaffirm these values, and in turn expects faculty, staff, and students to promote a positive culture of academic excellence in alignment with those values; and

WHEREAS, NC State supports, encourages and upholds the freedom of inquiry for students, faculty and staff, to the end that they may pursue their goals responsibly through teaching, learning, research, discussion and publication without restraints that would unreasonably restrict their academic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes that, as articulated in the University of Chicago Kalven Committee Report on the University’s Role in Political and Social Action (the “Kalven Report”), “neutrality as an institution has its complement in the fullest freedom for its faculty and students as individuals to participate in political action and social protest,” and reinforces that university neutrality provides “a forum for the most searching and candid discussion of public issues”, but that in extraordinary circumstances, NC State also has a duty to speak to defend the University’s mission; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees also recognizes its obligations under federal law, North Carolina state Law, UNC Board of Governors Policy, and NC State Policies, Regulations and Rules;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Board of Trustees of North Carolina State University reaffirms its commitment to academic freedom and freedom of expression, and to institutional neutrality on the political and social issues of the day, as embodied in, and in compliance with, federal and state laws, University of North Carolina and NC State University Policies.

Adopted this ___th day of April, 2024.