



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

February 23, 2024

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Campus Commons, Multipurpose Hall

Greeley, Colorado

MINUTES

Trustees Present: Dick Monfort (chair), Steve Jordan (vice chair), Greg Anton, Maia Babbs, Patricia Barela Rivera, Prateek Dutta, Annette Martinez, Jazmin Martinez, Angela Vaughan

University Staff Present: Andy Feinstein, Jennifer Almquist, Darren Dunn, Kirsty Fleming, Tobias Guzmán, Cedric Howard, Dale Pratt, Lori Riley, Dan Satriana, Dawit Senbet, Allie Steg Haskett

Invited Guests: Rachel Borum (PASC), Ethan Mondy (CSC), Kayla Tibbals (Nexus Policy Group, *via Zoom*)

I. Call to Order/Roll/Approval of Agenda

Board Chair Dick Monfort called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m. Interim General Counsel Dan Satriana noted the roll and verified a quorum.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Trustee Patricia Barela Rivera and seconded by Vice Chair Steve Jordan. The agenda was approved by all board members in attendance.

II. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Vice Chair Jordan and seconded by Trustee Greg Anton. The consent agenda was approved by all board members in attendance.

III. Election of Officers

Chair Monfort noted that the election of officers occurs annually per Board bylaws and asked Interim General Counsel Satriana to give an overview of the process. Trustee Maia Babbs nominated the slate of Dick Monfort, Chair; Steve Jordan, Vice Chair; Dan Satriana, Secretary; and Dale Pratt, Treasurer. A motion to approve the slate was made by Trustee Barela Rivera and seconded by Trustee Babbs. The board officer slate was approved by all board members in attendance.

IV. Opening Comments and Reports

A. President's Report

President Feinstein delivered the report.

He thanked everyone who participated in the previous evening's faculty scholars event noting the great opportunity to recognize research, scholarship, and creative works faculty members have accomplished over the past year. He added that UNC has reached the total research expenditures threshold required for the R2 classification.

Feinstein also provided an update on the 2023 calendar year fundraising amount of \$73M toward UNC's campaign goal and outlined the new fund report available in the meeting documents, which will be updated at future meetings to provide insight to philanthropic gifts to UNC.

Feinstein stated that House Bill (HB) 24-1231 to fund the proposed UNC College of Osteopathic Medicine was introduced to the Colorado Legislature last week. The bill is aimed at providing critical support to address health sciences education for medical professions in Colorado. The UNC request includes \$128M for UNC to construct a building for the medical college and approximately \$41M of the state's statutory reserve to strategically invest in the escrow needs of the project. The combined request of \$247M would also fund projects at MSU Denver, Colorado State University, and Trinidad State College. The economic impact study for the College of Osteopathic Medicine can be found on the Office of the President website. He said the focus is now on legislative advocacy to ensure the bill passes. Trustees commended the work that has been done on the bill for the medical school funding.

Feinstein noted that later in the meeting he would provide an update on efforts to complete key actions and tactics associated with Phase II of the strategic plan and priorities for Phase III. He also noted that the university community has been invited to participate in several fireside chats during the spring semester and a strategic planning town hall in April to discuss planning and priorities.

Feinstein shared an update on UNC's next steps toward designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), noting that UNC learned at the end of January that we did not meet the requirements to directly apply, but have been invited to pursue the waiver process. He noted that the federal government is looking at institutional data for two years prior to application and the waiver process provides UNC an opportunity to speak to both how we are meeting the threshold criteria in more recent years and add context about all we are doing to serve Hispanic and Latine students currently.

Feinstein also provided a brief update on the 2024-25 FASFA implementation and noted that the U.S. Department of Education had intended to implement a new simplified application, but

delays in rollout have caused some issues for students and families applying for federal aid and delayed our process in notifying students of aid packages. He noted that Vice President Howard would share more during his enrollment update later in the meeting.

Feinstein thanked Trustee Prateek Dutta for participating in the January Destination UNC event and congratulated Trustees Dutta and Babbs on their confirmation hearing on February 21, 2024, before the Senate Education Committee. He said their names would be referred to the full Senate for a vote and thanked them for their service to UNC. He also extended his congratulations to Trustee Jordan for being selected as one of this year's honored alumni and thanked him for his service to UNC.

B. Faculty Senate Report

Faculty Senate Chair Dawit Senbet had no report.

C. Student Government Association Report

Student Trustee Jazmin Martinez delivered the report. Martinez reported that the senators are making good progress on the new Student Government Association constitution.

D. Classified Staff Council Report

Classified Staff Council Chair Ethan [Mondy](#) delivered the report. Mondy shared there are two new council members and two new union stewards. The Council has reviewed emergency membership requirements and updates to the bylaws and continues to review sub-committee memberships to consider consolidation and/or removal of repetitious areas. He noted that the classified employee of the year will be announced at the March 7 Staff Recognition Luncheon. Mondy also noted that the Council continues to research fundraising opportunities.

E. Professional Administrative Staff Council Report

Professional Administrative Staff Council Treasurer Rachel Borum delivered the report. Borum shared an update on the PASC monthly newsletters, book scholarships, and fundraising initiatives, and she thanked the university community for their support. Borum also noted that there would be an end of the year PASC and CSC reception at President Feinstein's home in April and thanked the Board and the President's Cabinet for their continued partnership.

F. Board Chair's Comments

Chair Monfort notified the trustees that President Feinstein's annual evaluation would be completed in June 2024. Since it is a year only for annual evaluation, per Board policy, no evaluation committee was designated, and the full Board will meet with President Feinstein in

Executive Session at the next Board of Trustees meeting. He also noted that the evaluation tool would be shared with the trustees prior to the annual evaluation meeting.

G. Legislative Update

Kayla Tibbals, lobbyist for the University of Northern Colorado, delivered the report. Tibbals outlined HB24-1231, which provides funding for UNC's medical college, and noted it was introduced to the Colorado Legislature on February 12 and a press conference was held with the governor and the presidents of the four universities involved in the bill. Tibbals added that the sponsors are working to fast track the bill and it could be heard as early as the week of February 26. She expressed confidence in the bill's success and said she was thankful for the support of the governor's office, the Joint Budget Committee, and the bill sponsors. She noted that the higher education lobbyists continue to work with the Joint Budget Committee to increase the higher education appropriation and would continue to educate the general assembly to build support for higher education and the current bills that would have a positive effect on higher education. The trustees thanked Tibbals for her work on HB24-1231 and her work in the legislature for UNC and higher education.

V. Reports of Committees of the Board

A. Finance and Audit Committee

Finance and Audit Committee Chair Anton delivered the report, which included an overview of the committee's February 22, 2024, meeting. He summarized the committee's discussion about the external audit report, internal audits, the FY24 Q2 financial report, the FY25 budget forecast, and FY25 tuition and fee proposals. Anton also noted that the following items discussed at the February 22, 2024, Finance & Audit Committee meeting would be presented as action items later in the meeting: Arlington Park lease-purchase financing agreement, 16th Street easement agreement, series 2021A bond conversion, and tuition proposals for the College of Osteopathic Medicine and RN-BSN programs.

B. Ad Hoc Campaign Committee

Chair Monfort noted that the Ad Hoc Campaign Committee would be discussed further in Executive Session and invited Vice President Allie Steg Haskett to provide a high-level progress update.

Vice President Allie Steg Haskett reminded trustees that the Ad Hoc Campaign Committee was formed in June 2023 to consider and address recommendations from consultant Grenzebach Glier and Associates (GG+A), and she provided an update on the work done and next steps. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended review of the Foundation operating agreement and subsequently recommended that the Board of Trustees submit a letter to the Foundation Board outlining the request to update the operating agreement. President Feinstein and Vice President

Steg Haskett met with the Foundation Board on February 16, 2024, for further discussion. Steg Haskett noted there is additional work to be done to complete the request and she would provide updates as they become available.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Action Items

A. Facilities Comprehensive Plan

Vice President Pratt presented the action item and outlined the Facilities Comprehensive Plan executive summary and the recommended projects in UNC priority order by type and funding source, and he noted that the comprehensive plan provides guidance for future decision making for maintenance and project renewal.

Pratt also noted that SmithGroup was brought in to help engage students, faculty, and staff by leading focus groups, town halls, and other listening sessions with key stakeholders to discuss projects and priorities. The resulting draft plan was reviewed and presented to university stakeholder groups.

Discussion included the procurement process for contractor/subcontractor selection, public and private partnerships, funding sources, the importance of maintaining the vitality of central campus, balancing the project areas, the effect of student enrollment on the prioritization of projects, the importance of student input on project prioritization, and the estimated cost of the selected projects.

Chair Monfort sought a motion to approve the Facilities Comprehensive Plan as presented. Vice Chair Jordan made a motion, which was seconded by Trustee Barela Rivera and approved by all board members present.

B. Lease-Purchase Financing Agreement

Vice President Pratt presented the action item and provided an overview of the February 22, 2024, Finance & Audit Committee meeting discussion of the Arlington Park roofing project and the lease-purchase financing agreement.

Chair Monfort sought a motion to approve the lease-purchase financing agreement as presented. Trustee Anton made a motion, which was seconded by Trustee Babbs and approved by all board members present.

C. Easement Agreement

Vice President Pratt presented the action item and provided an overview of the February 22, 2024, Finance & Audit Committee meeting discussion of the proposed 16th Street enhancements and the permanent easement agreement. Pratt noted the project would be fully funded by the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Chair Monfort sought a motion to approve the easement agreement as presented. Trustee Barela Rivera made a motion, which was seconded by Vice Chair Jordan and approved by all board members present.

D. Tuition Proposals

i. College of Osteopathic Medicine

Vice President Pratt presented the action item and outlined the tuition proposal for the UNC College of Osteopathic Medicine, which is required to be finalized for accreditation. He also noted that the accrediting body requires maintaining a consistent tuition rate through graduation of the first cohort.

Discussion included the proposed single tuition rate for all students, the importance of creating paths to medical degrees for Colorado residents, current proposed medical college tuition rate and fees compared to undergraduate rates and fees, in-state student versus out-of-state student rates, rate comparison to other in-state osteopathic medicine colleges, addressing healthcare in rural communities, and the importance of defining strategies to keep students in Colorado after graduation.

Chair Monfort sought a motion to approve the UNC College of Osteopathic Medicine tuition proposal as presented. Vice Chair Jordan made a motion, which was seconded by Trustee Barela Rivera and approved by all board members present.

ii. RN-BSN

Provost Fleming presented the action item and outlined the proposal to lower the tuition to \$350 per credit hour for students enrolled in the RN to BSN program to remain competitive with other institutions in the state and align with the current community college tuition rate.

Discussion included clarification of the BSN degree, whether the lower tuition would increase enrollment, and enrollment trend data completed by Extended Campus.

Chair Monfort sought a motion to approve the RN-BSN tuition proposal as presented. Vice Chair Jordan made a motion, which was seconded by Trustee Annette Martinez and approved by all board members present.

E. Curriculum Actions

Provost Fleming presented the action item of twelve new certificate programs and noted the certificates are consistent with state and national trends to increase postsecondary credential options designed to help students be more competitive in areas of importance to employers. Fleming also noted that Academic Affairs has notified the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of UNC's intent to offer the certificate programs and received assurance that no further HLC review is required. Fleming reported that the programs have been fully approved through the UNC curriculum process and now need Board of Trustees approval prior to notification to the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

Discussion included certificate course revenue generation, resources needed to offer the additional certificate courses, how offering the certificates would improve rural community engagement and recruitment, state support of certificate programs, communication and marketing for the certificate programs, and incorporating the certificate information into campus tour materials as part of the student recruitment process.

Chair Monfort sought a motion to approve the curriculum actions as presented. Trustee Barela Rivera made a motion, which was seconded by Vice Chair Jordan and approved by all board members present.

F. Mid-term Emeritus Faculty Recommendations

Provost Fleming presented the action item and recommended Board approval of the nominations of the retiring faculty members who automatically qualify for emeritus status.

Chair Monfort sought a motion to approve the mid-term emeritus faculty recommendations as presented. Vice Chair Jordan made a motion, which was seconded by Trustee Dutta and approved by all board members present.

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Faculty Sabbaticals

Provost Fleming reported that 37 faculty sabbatical leave requests have been approved for the 2024-25 academic year.

B. Curriculum Updates

Provost Fleming delivered the report and provided a summary of recent curriculum changes through the curriculum process review. She outlined the restructure of three graduate degrees, five undergraduate degrees, and one undergraduate certificate and the reactivation of one graduate degree and the deactivation of two graduate degrees and two graduate certificates for the 2024-25 academic year.

C. Rowing, Not Drifting 2030, Phase II

i. Progress Report

President Feinstein delivered the report and provided progress updates on Phase II Key Actions and Tactics, noting the latest update to the Strategic Plan Progress Report shows that we are on track and at 71% completion or better on three actions. Feinstein outlined work that has been done on Key Action 2, focusing on the work to ensure UNC is a Students First university. He said that efforts in Phase III would build on the momentum of Phase II, noting that the work on tactics in progress would carry forward as needed.

ii. Campus Climate Survey Findings

Vice President Tobias Guzmán delivered the report and provided an overview of the campus climate survey process, instruments, timeline, and demographics and noted that the survey was

conducted in alignment with the strategic plan. Guzmán outlined five key survey themes, opportunities for improvement, and the efforts underway. He outlined next steps to include an upcoming Campus Climate Fireside Chat, publication of dashboards outlining survey results, and identification of common themes to help create a roadmap for DEI at UNC.

Discussion included information that is crucial for continued efforts to create a climate of belonging for all members of the university community, common themes across groups of respondents, and the importance of determining and implementing action on common themes that emerged from the survey.

D. Enrollment Update

Vice President Howard delivered the report and outlined the changes to the process the U.S. Department of Education uses in the determination of student federal financial aid eligibility and the implications on UNC students and higher education more broadly. Howard provided an update on enrollment planning targets and on, undergraduate, graduate, and transfer admission data for fall 2024, and he reviewed application tracking dashboards. He also reviewed current and projected housing applications and numbers, housing requirements and restrictions, and noted more information would be provided at the May 3, 2024, Finance & Audit Committee meeting.

Discussion included strategies to bolster housing occupancy and the importance of focusing on retention of current students.

IX. Executive Session

Chair Monfort asked Interim General Counsel Satriana to make the following announcement to take the Board into executive session:

“Pursuant to §24-6-402(3)(a)(II) and (VIII), C.R.S. the University of Northern Colorado Board of Trustees will go into Executive Session to receive legal advice regarding, and to consider the awarding of honorary degrees, and, pursuant to §24-6-402(3)(a)(II), C.R.S., to receive legal advice regarding issues about changes in the organizational relationship between the Board and the University Foundation.”

Chair Monfort sought a motion to take the Board into executive session. Vice Chair Jordan made a motion, which was seconded by Trustee Babbs and approved by all board members present. Chair Monfort noted that following the executive session the board would return to the public meeting in order to take action on the Honorary Degree Conferral recommendation.

Following executive session, Interim General Counsel Satriana provided public record of affirmation regarding the executive session.

X. Action Item

A. Honorary Degree Conferral

Chair Monfort sought a motion to approve the Honorary Degree Conferral recommendation. Vice Chair Jordan made a motion, which was seconded by Trustee Barela Rivera and approved by all board members present.

XI. Adjourn

With no further business, Chair Monfort adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.