

**AGENDA**  
**University Affairs Committee**  
**February 13, 2026**

- |      |   |             |
|------|---|-------------|
| I.   | Call to Order and Approval of Minutes – November 13, 2025 | Action      |
| II.  | Spring Enrollment Update                                  | Information |
| III. | Undergraduate Research Highlight                          | Information |
| IV.  | Closed Session  | Action      |
| V.   | Return to Open Session                                    |             |
| VI.  | Adjourn   |             |



Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
University Affairs Committee  
February 12, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM**

- I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes November 13, 2025..... Dave Fussell  
Committee Chair

**Situation:** Approval of the minutes from the University Affairs Committee November 13, 2025, is required.

**Background:**

**Assessment:**

**Action:** This item requires a vote by the committee.

## DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.  
Via Videoconference and Panopto Livestream  
ECU Main Campus Student Center, Room 249  
501 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Greenville, NC 27858

This meeting of the University Affairs Committee was presided over by Committee Vice Chair Carl Rogers. The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were also present: Nick Crabtree, Daniel Walker, Vanessa Workman, and Rich Balot. Trustee Chair Cassie Burt and Trustees Jim Segrave, Scott Shook, Van Isley, Matt Crisp, and Curtis Struyk were also present.

ECU staff present included Chancellor Rogers, presenters Provost Chris Buddo and Sharon Paynter, and Executive Council members Meagan Kiser, Megan Ayers, Stephanie Coleman, Christopher Dyba, Brandon Frye, Jeannine Hutson, and Chris Locklear.

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### I. Call to Order and Approval of the Open Minutes

Committee Vice Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 12:55PM on November 13, 2025. The open session minutes from the October 2, 2025 committee meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

### II. Conferral of Degrees (Action)

Provost Chris Buddo shared with the committee information about the Fall 2025 graduation class: this fall, ECU has a total of 1,863 students graduating with 2,056 credentials, including students with more than one credential as well as our ECU Flight Path students.

The Committee voted to approve the candidates for degrees at December commencement and recommend for full Board consideration.

**Motion:** I move the candidates for degrees, as approved by the Chancellor and Faculty Senate be authorized for conferral at the annual Winter Commencement on Friday, December 19, 2025.

**Motion:** Daniel Walker  
**Motion carried**

### **III. Disestablishment of the East Carolina Heart Institute (Action)**

Dr. Sharon Paynter presented to the committee related to the recommendation from the ECU Centers and Institutes committee to de-establish the East Carolina Heart Institute as a UNC-authorized institute. EHCI will continue to operate as a robust clinical entity. This item requires a vote by the committee with a vote by the full Board of Trustees through the consent agenda.

**Motion:** I move the committee approve the disestablishment of the East Carolina Heart Institute as presented in board materials and refer this item to the Board of Trustees through the consent agenda.

**Motion:** Daniel Walker

**Motion carried**

### **IV. Academic Program Review Summary Report (Information)**

Provost Buddo presented the Academic Program Review Summary Report for 2024-2025 to the committee, as UNC Policy requires that the Board of Trustees review the report prior to its submission to the UNC System President. A total of 35 programs were reviewed this cycle, 24 of those being accredited programs.

### **V. UNC Performance Metrics Update (Information)**

Provost Buddo presented to the committee an update on ECU's standing in the current funding cycle (Cycle Two) as it relates to the UNC System's performance funding and accountability measures. Associate Provost Ying Zhou was also available for any questions from the committee. The metrics evaluated in the presentation and described for the committee include four-year graduation rates for first-time, full-time students, three-year graduation rates for NC Community College transfer students, undergraduate degree efficiency, average credits earned per year, average student load debt at completion, educational and related costs per degree, and research productivity.

Highlights from the presentation include meaningful progress in key student success areas such as among transfer students and in the accumulation of earned credits within the first year. Moving forward, ECU will focus on targeted interventions to improve graduation outcomes, cost efficiency, and community and economic engagement.

### **VI. Impacts on Research from a Federal Perspective (Information)**

Dr. Sharon Paynter returned to share with the committee information about the funding and regulatory environment surrounding sponsored research, which has changed significantly in recent years. ECU has strategically shifted our approach to sponsored programs, including aligning our processes and priorities with new and emerging federal funder expectations. Beyond meeting requirements, ECU's efforts in this space are to position the university for long term success and to maintain the momentum gained in the complex and competitive research environment.

## **VII. Closed Session**

The committee requests to go into closed session to consider a personnel-related matter.

**Motion:** I move the committee will go into closed session:

- To prevent the disclosure of confidential information under NCGS 136-22 to 126-30 (personnel information) and the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; and
- To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, or appointment of prospective and/or current employees and/or to hear or investigate a complaint or grievance by or against one more employees; and
- To consult with an attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the Committee.

**Motion:** Daniel Walker

**Motion carried**

The committee went into closed session at 1:38PM.

The committee returned from closed session at 1:41PM.

There being no further business and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:41PM.

Submitted by:

Madeleine Bade Griffith  
Office of the Provost

**AGENDA ITEM**

- II. Spring 2026 Enrollment Briefing ..... J. Christopher Buddo  
Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Situation:** The University Affairs Committee will receive an update on Spring 2026 enrollment and retention data for ECU.

**Background:** Last academic year, the University Affairs Committee and the Committee on Strategy & Innovation engaged in a three-part, joint-committee series on the enrollment landscape and the factors and drivers of ECU’s strategic enrollment management strategy. Multiple factors influence enrollment outcomes, so an understanding of the overall landscape, trends, and forecasts along with ECU’s market position, informs the priorities and practices to best position ECU in this competitive environment. This meeting’s update will provide data and context on Spring 2026 and preview Fall 2026 to continue active discussion and understanding of ECU’s enrollment position.

**Assessment:** With the top of the enrollment funnel continuing to grow, efforts to focus on yield are becoming increasingly important. The addition of NC College Connect adds further layers of complexity to the final incoming enrollment headcount as we close out Spring 2026 enrollment and look toward Fall 2026. Whereas continued growth in innovative enrollment spaces like Flight Path are enhancing total headcount, steady performance in student success areas like retention and persistence are helping stabilize the full enrollment picture as we head into Fall 2026.

**Action:** This item is for information only.

**AGENDA ITEM**

- III. Undergraduate Research ..... Sharon Paynter, Ph.D.  
Chief Innovation and Engagement Officer  
Interim Chief Research Officer

**Situation:** This session will highlight undergraduate research as one of East Carolina University’s most powerful high-impact educational practices, demonstrating how early and sustained engagement in research deepens student learning, strengthens retention and persistence, and prepares graduates for advanced study, professional practice, and workforce leadership.

**Background:** As an R1 institution with a strong scholar-teacher model, ECU provides undergraduates with meaningful opportunities to engage in faculty-mentored inquiry, discovery, and creative activity across disciplines. These experiences range from course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) embedded in the curriculum to immersive, mentored research projects, internships, and community-engaged scholarship. Together, they allow students to apply classroom learning to real-world problems while developing critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills that employers and graduate programs demand.

**Assessment:** The session will also provide concrete examples of ECU programs and pathways that operationalize undergraduate research at scale, illustrating how these experiences are integrated into the curriculum, supported institutionally, and aligned with student success and workforce outcomes.

**Action:** This item is for information only.

**AGENDA ITEM**

IV. Closed Session ..... Dave Fussell  
Committee Chair

**Situation:** The committee requests to go into closed session to consider personnel related matters.

**Background:** It is the policy of the State of North Carolina that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

**Assessment:** The committee will go into closed session:

- To prevent the disclosure of confidential information under N.C. General Statutes §126-22 to §126-30 (personnel information) and the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; and
- To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, or appointment of prospective and/or current employees and/or to hear or investigate a complaint or grievance by or against one or more employees
- To consult with an attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the Committee.

**Action:** This item requires a vote by the committee.