MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NCCU BOARD OF TRUSTEES
May 6, 2005
Via Teleconference Call

Vice Chairman Cressie Thigpen called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. since Chairman Williams was on a mobile telephone call and would join the call shortly. He recognized Chancellor Ammons, Interim Provost Jones, Kaye Webb and Ms. Fuse-Hall as NCCU staff on the call.

Ms. Fuse-Hall called the roll. Executive Committee members present included Chairman Williams, Mr. Kenneth Gibbs, George Miller, Ms. Valeria Lee and Mr. Cressie Thigpen and a quorum was established.

Mr. Miller proffered a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. G. S. Section 143-318.11(a)(6) “to consider the qualifications and conditions of appointment of prospective public employees.” Ms. Lee seconded the motion and it carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chairman Thigpen recognized Chancellor Ammons for his presentation of two (2) candidates, beginning with the position of Dean of the School of Law. A search committee was convened consisting of law faculty, law alumni and a student representative and it was chaired by Attorney Charles Smith. The committee was assisted by the consulting firm, Heidrick & Struggles. The committee recommended three (3) finalists for on-campus interviews, including interviews with the Chancellor and the Provost. I am pleased to recommend Raymond Pierce. Attorney Pierce is a graduate of Syracuse University and Case Western Reserve University School of Law. He is a member of the bar in Arkansas and Ohio. Currently, he is a partner in the prestigious Baker & Hostetler law firm in Cleveland, OH. He represents state governments in higher education and pension investment-related matters.

In 1993, President Clinton appointed Attorney Pierce as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Education in the Office of Civil Rights. He worked on the historic Fordice case that developed federal higher education desegregation policy and compliance initiatives that concluded in six state plans for increased funding and expanded education programs at HBCUs. Attorney Price has published major federal civil rights policy and guidelines on higher education desegregation with specific emphasis on HBCUs. He has raised significant funds for a variety of causes. While the current dean has primed the pump among local alumni and supporters, Atty. Pierce will introduce NCCU to broader audiences that he interacts with daily; thus, bringing a national prominence to the law school.

Chancellor Ammons recommended that the board hire Attorney. Pierce as the Dean of the NCCU School of Law, beginning July 1, 2005, at a starting salary of $165,000. Further, Chancellor Ammons recommend that Attorney Pierce receive tenure in the school of law.
The members discussed the credentials of the candidate. Following discussions of Attorney Pierce’s credentials, the chairman asked Chancellor Ammons to present the candidate for Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

The search committee was chaired by Dr. Percy Murray and consisted of faculty and a graduate student. The search began in 2004 and was re-opened in the fall of 2004. There were 21 applicants and the search committee recommended four finalists for on-campus interviews; however, only two were interviewed. Chancellor Ammons noted that two (2) candidates accepted jobs before the interviews occurred. The Chancellor and the Provost interviewed the candidates. Feedback was gleaned from Vice Chancellors, deans, department chairs, staff and faculty members. The Chancellor recommended Dr. Caesar Jackson for the position.

Dr. Jackson received his Bachelor of Science degree from Florida A & M, his Master of Science degree from the University of Florida and his Ph.D. in physics from NC State University. Dr. Jackson began his career in industry before joining the academic faculty at NC A&T. He has risen through the ranks beginning as a faculty member, department chair, Dean of Research and Graduate programs and interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The chancellor initiated a professional courtesy call to Chancellor Renick regarding this position. Dr. Jackson lives in Durham and has commuted to NC A&T State University for several years. Chancellor Ammons recommended that the board hire Dr. Jackson at the salary of $130,000 effective August 1, 2005, because he is completing a project. There was brief discussion about the candidate’s strong credentials, especially in the sciences.

Ms. Lee moved that the committee reconvene in open session. Mr. Gibbs seconded the motion and it carried.

**OPEN SESSION**

Mr. Gibbs moved that the board approve the personnel matters discussed in closed session. Ms. Lee seconded the motion and it carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by
Rosalind Fuse-Hall, Assistant Secretary, NCCU Board of Trustees