MINUTES OF
NCCU BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 17, 2007

The NCCU Board of Trustees Executive Committee met via telephone conference call and a public forum was provided in the William Jones Building, Institutional Advancement’s Conference Room. Chairman Thigpen called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. He recognized Ms. Dottie Irving Fuller to call the roll.

Executive Committee members participating on the call were Chairman Cressie Thigpen, Vice Chairwoman Kay Thomas and Trustee George Miller. Trustee R. Edward Stewart was absent. A quorum was established.

Others present included Chancellor Charlie Nelms, Provost Beverly Jones, Attorney Kaye Webb, Ms. Dottie Irving Fuller, Ms. Briana Dupart (Durham Herald Sun), Mr. Shawn Stewart and Ms. Terri Godwin.

Chairman Thigpen recognized Provost Beverly Jones to present the Proposed Minimum Admissions Policy for New Freshmen for Entering Fall 2008. It was recommended by General Administration that we not need to proceed until our Chancellor was in place. They also strongly recommended we have 3 town meetings to elicit, to have a conversation about these minimum requirements, followed by assurance it went through the protocol on campus from our Council of Deans, Academic Planning Committee, University Planning Council and the Board of Trustees. This document in a policy to a large degree should have been done earlier, but is now being brought to the last level which is before the Board of Trustees for adoption.

These minimum requirements have been duly presented and approved in the established protocol:
  Approved by Admissions Standards Committee – June 12, 2007
  Approved by Academic Planning Council – September 5, 2007
  Approved by University Planning Council – September 5, 2007

In-State Students

The policy indicates beginning fall 2008, general university in-state undergraduate minimum admissions requirements will be 720 SAT or 14 ACT and a high school GPA of 2.30.

The in-state undergraduate minimum admissions requirements for the College of Science and Technology and the School of Business will be 820 SAT or 17 ACT and a high school GPA of 2.30. The in-state undergraduate minimum admissions requirements to the Department of Nursing will be 900 SAT or 20 ACT and a high school GPA of 2.8
Out of State Students

Beginning fall of 2008, general university out-of-state undergraduate minimum admissions requirements will be 820 SAT or 17 ACT and a high school GPA 2.5.

The out-of-state undergraduate minimum admissions requirements for the College of Science and Technology and the School of Business will be 820 SAT or ACT 17 and a high school GPA of 2.5. The out-of-state undergraduate minimum admissions requirements to the Department of Nursing will be 900 SAT or 20 ACT and a high school GPA of 2.8.

The Trend Data and Impact Statements indicates during the period of fall 2002 to fall 2006, student enrollment at NCCU increased from 6,519 to 8,675 or 33 percent. This data also reflects undergraduate enrollment during the 5-year period increased from 4,762 to 6,614 or 389 percent, while new freshmen enrollment increased from 843 to 1,021 or 21.1 percent.

The charts and tables attached reflect the following:

- Chart 1 – NCCU 5-year Undergraduate Enrollment Trend Fall 2002-2006
- Chart 2 – NCCU 5-year Enrollment of New Freshmen Fall 2002- 2006
- Chart 3 – In-State First-time Freshmen Admissions by High School GPA and 3-year Average SAT score Fall 2004 – 2006
- Chart 4 Out-of-State First-time Freshmen Admissions by High School GPA and 3-year Average SAT Score Fall 2004 – 2006
- Table 1 - NCCU 5-year Trend of Average High School GPA, SAT and ACT Scores
- Table 2 - NCCU – College of Science and Technology 5-year Trend of Average High School GPA, SAT and ACT scores
- Table 3 – NCCU – School of Business 5-year Trend of Average High School GPA, SAT and ACT scores
- Table 4 – NCCU – Department of Nursing 5-year Trend of Average High School GPA, SAT and ACT scores
- Table 5 – NCCU Impact of Changes in Admissions Requirements Fall 2002 - 2006

Provost Jones indicated many of our students are advocating for a higher GPA, ACT and SAT minimal. This requirement does place us being competitive with our peers. It is important that we are communicating what the plan is. Provost Jones referred to the flyer “Do You Have What It Takes to Be an Eagle?” which indicates what the requirements are and what undergraduate degree programs are offered at NCCU. The Chancellor has approved a letter to be sent to Stakeholders, mass mailing in the works to approximately a 5,000 – alumni, community colleges, corporate supporters as well as local, state and federal officials. There will be a meeting in January to move forth with a 5 year plan in terms of minimal admissions requirements, looking at 2009 and 2010.
Chancellor Nelms made four observations:

- Research suggests the best predictor of success in college is the rigor of the curriculum taken in high school. Keeping in mind that SAT scores and the GPA is just one indicator. All students must take the college preparatory courses for admission to UNC system.
- Want to make sure the minimal requirements do not become the optimal requirements. We do not want the minimum to be interpreted as saying this is all you need to get into NCCU, we are going after the students well above this level. We should be moving our admission standards up as reflected by the GPA especially in subsequent years. Even though the UNC system indicates we should have a 2.5 GPA minimum of 700 by 2009, Chancellor believes we should go to 2.5 and then moving up gradually over the next 5 – 7 years, so we should be hopefully about a 2.75 or 2.8 GPA at the end of about a 6 or 7 year period. This is Chancellor Nelms’ strong recommendation. With a recommendation to come before the Board for 2009-2010, we would have a gradual increase.
- We are not attempting to exclude people. The fact is some people would be much better off going to a community college and upon removing their deficiencies or getting their skill sets together, they would apply as a transfer student. As a part of our overall enrollment strategy to bring in more transfer students and to return to NCCU students may have been previously here or some place else, but now live in the greater Research Triangle community.
- We need to make sure we have the financial resources to be able to recruit high achieving students to NCCU.

Trustee Miller inquired what the average SAT or ACT for all North Carolina takers. The national average for 1017. Chancellor Nelms indicated within the University System we are in line with those. Still doing research with peer institutions. Chairman Thigpen indicated at the BOT Retreat on September 25, 2007, presentations will be made on statistical data – average GPA, SAT, comparisons to peers, national and state levels, etc.

Trustee Thomas expressed some concerns we were reducing all the scores except the Nursing scores and increasing the nursing scores - reasons being students coming to the nursing program are more prepared than in the past. By reducing some scores will be concerns to alumni. The alumni has expressed it is the quality of students, rather than increasing the quantity of students. Chancellor Nelms believes NCCU students can meet the test. The research is clear about expectations. Chancellor recalls Proposition 48 which was going to exclude large number of African Americans. Such was not proven to be the case. Not all people are meeting those
standards. We do our students and families a disservice if we communicate the belief we cannot achieve under this level. We will not be disappointed and they will achieve at the level established. Chancellor Nelms’ indicates going forward would be his strong recommendation, while we love growth, but not all growth is the growth you want. Provost Jones indicated looking at the GPA 2.8 and SAT 900 this is the threshold we want students to meet. Dr. Harris acknowledged the students now being admitted into the Nursing program the GPA’s and SAT’s are even higher. Also programs were offered this summer for freshmen who wanted to be a part of the nursing program. There are bridge programs to support this effort as much as possible.

Chancellor Nelms noted it is common in this country for community colleges as well as 4-year institutions to have a threshold requirement for admission to the institution, but have a higher requirement for admission to a program. These are admission requirements, not for program admission.

Chancellor Nelms also indicated, going forward would like to look at gradually increasing a combination of GAP and SAT over a period of the next 5 – 7 years, would give students an opportunity to complete and meet the requirements.

It was moved by Trustee Thomas and properly seconded by Trustee Miller to adopt the Policy for New Freshmen for Entering Fall 2008. The motion carried.

Chancellor Nelms also mentioned in The Chronicle for Higher Education this week was an article talking about the SAT scores. This article should be included in the packet of information for the Board of Trustees Retreat.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Irving–Fuller

Dottie Irving Fuller