The NCCU Board of Trustees convened in the Emma Marable Conference Room in the William Jones Building on the campus of North Carolina Central University on September 26, 2007. Chairman Cressie Thigpen called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**INVOCATION:** Trustee Glenn Adams gave the invocation.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mr. Cressie Thigpen, Jr., Mrs. Kay Thomas, Mr. Eric Michaux, Mr. Charles Baron, Mr. R. Edward Stewart, Mr. George Miller, Mr. Glenn Adams, Mr. Robert Dolan, and Mrs. Nancy Wysenski. *Absent:* Bishop Eddie Long.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** It was moved by Trustee Baron and properly seconded by Trustee Michaux that the agenda be adopted. The motion carried.


**SWEARING IN CEREMONY:** Chairman Thigpen recognized The Honorable Elaine Bushfan, Chief District Court Judge, 14th Judicial District. Judge Bushfan was extremely happy to be on the campus of NCCU, “it is always good to come home.” She thanked God for all that North Carolina Central University has been in her life, being a two time graduate of this institution, recognizing relatives, friends, former professors and former employers. “Keep on keeping on.” She is representative to all this campus has done to others and thank God for the work this campus is doing. Judge Bushfan administered the oaths of office to Mrs. Avon Ruffin, Dr. Dwight Perry and Mr. Tomasi Larry. Chairman Thigpen thanked Judge Bushfan for the valued services she renders to North Carolina. He welcomed the new trustees and looks forward to working with each of them during the upcoming year.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Trustee R. Edward Stewart presented the Nominating Committee Report. The Nominating Committee consisted of Trustee Ed Stewart, Chair, Trustee Kay Thomas, Trustee Nancy Wysenski and Trustee Eddie Long. The Committee met via telephone and determined that each candidate for office met the criteria for leadership based upon commitment and years of service on the Board. The committee confirmed eligibility of the candidates and their willingness to serve as an officer.
After careful deliberations, the committee proposed to return all incumbents to office as listed below.

Chairperson  Mr. Cressie H. Thigpen
Vice Chairperson  Mrs. Kay Thomas
Secretary  Mr. George Miller, III

Trustee Stewart moved and it was properly seconded by Trustee Baron that the Board approve the slate of officers for the North Carolina Central University Board of Trustees for 2007-2008. The motion carried.

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS: Chairman Thigpen thanked the fellow trustees for reelecting him. It has been a pleasure and honor serving the Board of Trustees and this great institution. Thanks for the vote of confidence. He also congratulated Trustee Kay Thomas and Trustee George Miller on their reelection. Chairman Thigpen also noted he will not seek reelection again.

Chairman Thigpen congratulated Trustee Ruffin, Trustee Perry and Trustee Larry on their appointment to the board and looks forward to working with them.

Congratulations were also extended to Trustee Glenn Adams and Trustee Eric Michaux who were recently reappointed to the NCCU Board of Trustees by the Governor.

Chairman Thigpen welcomed Chancellor Nelms to his first NCCU Board of Trustees meeting. Seems as though the Chancellor has been here forever, but arrived approximately 8 weeks ago. Chancellor is doing a great job. Chancellor participated in the Retreat and gave the trustees some ideas of what he anticipates the direction of the University in the upcoming years. Trustee Baron speaking on behalf of the trustees assured the Chancellor he has the full confidence and support of the board.

Chairman Thigpen recognized the transition team which was headed by Dr. Beverly Jones. She ran the university between the time Chancellor Ammons left and Chancellor Nelms arrived. She did an excellent job along with her team. He acknowledged Dr. Jones and the team and thanked them for the hard work done during this transition.

The Board congratulated Trustee Nancy Wysenski on her recent appointment as Chief Operating Officer for Endo Pharmaceuticals located in Chadd Ford, Pennsylvania.

Fall convocation is this Friday, September 28th at 9:15 a.m. in McLendon-McDougald Gym. Chancellor Nelms will give his State of the University address.
Included in the trustees notebooks are the following items:

1. Schedule of meetings for 2007-2008
2. UNC Disclosure of Substantial Interests Form which is due on or before October 1, 2007
3. Important dates – Note change – Honors Convocation has been changed to April 3, 2008 and Chancellor Nelms’ installation will be held on February 22, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.
4. The revised NCCU Board of Trustees Membership list reflects Trustee Wysenski’s new contact information

Chairman Thigpen reminded all trustees they are required to participate in a mandatory Basic Ethics & Lobbying Education & Awareness Program. This training was offered at the Conference on Trusteeship back in February 2007. Those attending this conference had the opportunity to take this training. For those who did not the training is being conducted by the State Ethics Commission and the scheduled dates for the remainder of 2007 are October 10, October 22, November 20 and December 12, 2007, in Raleigh at the Museum of History on Edenton Street. It was the plan of the Commission to conduct one-on-one sessions at each of the 16 campuses. However, due to a staffing issue, until resolved, will prohibit sessions on individual campuses. They are also working with ITS to coordinate video broadcasts across the state so that travel will not be an issue regarding this mandated training. Chairman Thigpen indicated the trustees will be informed about upcoming schedules in relation to video broadcasts which will include out of state trustees also.

Appointments to committees will be made sometime in October and before the November 2007 meeting. Chairman requested trustees to drop him an e-mail expressing their preferences on committee services.

Chairman Thigpen also informed the Board as Chair, it is his responsibility to remind all members of the Board of their duty under the State Government Ethics Act to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict of interest as required by this Act. Each member has received the agenda and related information for this Board of Trustees meeting. If any board member knows of any conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matter coming before the board of trustees at this meeting, the conflict or appearance of conflict should be identified at this time.

Chairman Thigpen also reminded the Board immediately following the meeting there will be a ribbon cutting for Eagleson Residence Hall. At the conclusion of the ribbon cutting, lunch will be served for the trustees in the William Jones Building, Board Conference Room.
Retreat was held on Tuesday. Fully packed with a lot of information and good information. Chairman Thigpen suggests additional time to have a true retreat – with nice leisure surroundings. The highlight were the students.

Chairman Thigpen inquired of the trustees whether they would like to set aside a day for Habitat for Humanity. He asked the trustees to let him know if they would so desire to participate.

Chairman Thigpen also announced that since there were no committee meetings for the September Board meeting, the Board today will consider Action Items Only.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: The Audit Committee had two (2) action items. It was moved by Trustee Michaux and properly seconded by Trustee Adams to approve the Audit Committee minutes dated April 24, 2007. The motion carried.

Trustee Michaux recognized Ms. Loretta Hayes, Interim Internal Auditor for presentation of the 2007-2008 Audit Plan. Ms. Hayes noted that twelve (12) audits have been scheduled for 2007-2008. She also noted that changes in laws, policies, procedures, scope, personnel and other unplanned events may result in changes to the audit scheduled for this year. Trustee Miller inquired as to whether there is a search going on to fill that position. Chancellor Nelms acknowledged there is currently a search in process. Trustee Michaux moved and it was properly seconded by Trustee Adams to approve the 2007-08 Audit Plan. The motion carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee had one (1) action item. It was moved by Trustee Stewart and properly seconded by Trustee Baron to approve the Finance Committee minutes dated April 24, 2007. The motion carried.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: The Building Committee had one (1) action item. It was moved by Trustee Miller and properly seconded by Trustee Dolan to approve the Building Committee minutes dated April 24, 2007. The motion carried.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE: The Institutional Advancement Committee had one (1) action item. It was moved by Trustee Michaux and properly seconded by Trustee Miller to approve the Institutional Advancement Committee minutes dated April 24, 2007. The motion carried.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE: The Endowment Fund Committee had one (1) action item. It was moved by Trustee Baron and properly seconded by Trustee Adams to approve the Endowment Fund Committee minutes dated April 24, 2007. The motion carried.
EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: The Educational Planning and Academic Affairs Committee had four (4) action items. It was moved by Trustee Thomas and properly seconded by Trustee Adams to approve the Educational Planning and Academic Affairs Committee minutes dated April 24, 2007. The motion carried.

Trustee Thomas recognized Dr. Beverly Bryant for presentation for approval of authorization to establish an MBA in Business Administration – Hospitality Concentration. Chancellor Nelms was delighted this degree is coming before the board because it aligns nicely with one of those niche opportunities for this institution. Given the fact that we are in a research based kind of area, there are large numbers of people who would be interested in taking advantage of this, but equally important it is an opportunity for us to make a contribution and to prepare people not only in North Carolina, but around the country. Chancellor Nelms sees this program as just doing that enabling us to enhance our already high level of distinction and distinctiveness by being able to offer this program. Dr. Bryant informed the trustees on the back of the handout is the proposed curriculum. It was moved by Trustee Adams and properly seconded by Trustee Ruffin to approve the authorization to establish an MBA in Business Administration – Hospitality Concentration. The motion carried.

Trustee Thomas recognized Dr. Tun Nyein and Dr. Paula Harrell for presentation for approval of authorization to establish a BA in Music – Ethnomusicology Concentration. It was moved by Trustee Stewart and properly seconded by Trustee Adams to approve the authorization to establish a BA in Music – Ethnomusicology Concentration. The motion carried.

Trustee Thomas recognized Dr. Lorna Harris for presentation to approve a request to establish an RN – BS in Nursing. Trustee Michaux commended the nursing department. The School of Nursing has quite a history at NCCU. A few years ago it was almost discontinued and thanks to the dean and staff this program was resurrected and made it one of the most outstanding nursing programs in North Carolina. Trustee Michaux indicated some recognition needs to go to the School of Nursing for its stability and its growth and he supports expanding this program at NCCU. It was moved by Trustee Stewart and properly seconded by Trustee Baron to approve a request to establish an RN – BS in Nursing. The motion carried.

TRUSTEE-STUDENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE: The Student Relations Committee had one (1) action item. It was moved by Trustee Adams and properly seconded by Trustee Miller to approve the Trustee Student Relations Committee minutes dated April 24, 2007. The motion carried.
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: The Personnel Committee had six (6) action items, five (5) of which to be considered in Closed Session. It was moved by Trustee Miller and properly seconded by Trustee Stewart to approve the Personnel Committee minutes dated April 24, 2007. The motion carried.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT: Chancellor Nelms is delighted to be a member of the University family. He looks forward to working with each of the trustees in the months and years ahead to do what he was asked to join the University to do – move to new levels of excellence and responsiveness. Chancellor Nelms has been quite busy, fully engaged.

Chancellor Nelms publicly thanked Provost Jones and her entire transition team who have done a wonderful job providing a framework and platform to commence his tenure to this University.

Upon arriving Chancellor Nelms has met with a broad array of constituents. Leadership has a contextual framework, trying to understand as best he can that context for that leadership. “Anyone who has an agenda in his or her pocket already, probably should think seriously as to whether you want that person here.” The agenda for this university the priorities are here so the role of leadership is to make sure they are flushed out in such a way we can focus. Chancellor’s idea of focus is to meet with students, faculty, staff, corporate individuals, school officials, and elected officials. Chancellor Nelms wants to understand their aspirations for the future of NCCU; the opportunities and challenges they have in mind; give them an idea of who the Chancellor is and his passion for students and the work that he does. Conversations will continue not only through transition, but throughout his association with the University.

Chancellor Nelms indicates he has been working on a number of ongoing management issues related to assuring greater efficiency, effectiveness and excellence. He put issues in categories:

- Ongoing management
- Strategic Initiatives
- Windows of Opportunity – those things not known when proceeding, but must be prepared to take advantage of them
- Transition Advisory Committee – (external – Howard, State University of NY at Albany, Arkansas at Fayetteville, Wisconsin and Indiana). It allows you to have a set of fresh eyes to take a look at the institution. Looking at opportunities to get a better alignment that will enable us to achieve efficiency and effectiveness. He will focus their review and expects in return to get a set of observations and recommendations of what they see as external people for greater alignment for the University.
Undergraduate excellence – working with Provost Jones as primary contact person. What are some of the primary indicators of excellence that guide the academic and co-curricular activities of faculty and students at NCCU? To what degree does NCCU adopt a comprehensive and systematic approach to assessing student learning outcomes? These are some examples of the kinds of questions that will help guide the work of the transition review committee, so when they return the recommendations are aligned with the strategic plan of the university.

Student Services and Enrollment Management – working with Interim Vice Chancellor Frances Graham as primary contact person. How can NCCU attract, retain and graduate students who can most benefit from and contribute to the University’s environment for learning and living? What could be the distinguishing characteristics of an NCCU student experience?

Academic Program Mix and Quality – achieve a greater program mix. Graduate programs would be one example. Given the population density in this area this is an opportunity for us in the context of the existing strengths we already have. Are there any notable gaps in NCCU’s academic program mix given its current academic strengths and needs of the region, the state and our prospective students? What can be done to improve student performance on external exams for access to regulated careers – education, nursing, etc.

Faculty Research and Scholarship – How can existing research resources and organizational support be more effectively managed in order to take advantage of synergies through increased collaboration between academic unit as opposed to creating a whole new unit? Are there ways for us to achieve more through greater collaboration?

Quality Service – Chancellor Nelms received greater feedback. How can administrative departments and support service units best monitor and improve the quality and responsiveness of service to the students, faculty, staff and community clients? Chancellor Nelms indicated on Friday at his State of the University address he will have more to say regarding quality service initiatives.

Planning and Budgeting – What can be done to make institutional planning more inclusive of and responsive to the entire NCCU community? How can we have greater transparency, alignment, between the planning process the priority identification and the allocation of resources?

Community and Economic Development – How can NCCU become more strategic about acquiring and developing properties to further develop the university as a student and community resource?
Upon completion Chancellor Nelms based on his review of the observations and recommendations of the institution with the external eyes here are some recommendation needs to go with people, programs, facilities and outcomes.

Chancellor Nelms informed the trustees that NCCU football team played in the Whitney Young Football Classic recently and our band appeared on the CBS Early Morning Show.

Chancellor Nelms also informed the trustees several searches are underway and will be concluded shortly. They include Vice Chancellor & Chief Fiscal Officer and Administrative Affairs, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Budget Director, Internal Auditor, Director, Public Relations and Communications, Executive Assistant to Chancellor for Government Affairs and Community Relations. Chancellor Nelms indicated he cannot do every and all things by himself. Has to have support. Trying to build a team in a common denominator from all these searches looking for people with a skill set technically speaking, but also looking for good communicators and good collaborators.

Chancellor Nelms indicated we are in the first phase of increasing North Carolina Central University’s admission standards. Long term if we are going to serve the needs of this region, state and nation and to achieve our goal of graduating more students we have to make sure students are better prepared for academic success when coming to this University. These changes are designed to do that. They are not designed to be exclusive. They are designed to do two (2) things to enhance access and success. There will be another increase in 2009. These recommendations approved by the Board of Trustees have the broad support of a wide array students, faculty and staff.

Chancellor Nelms also noted his pleasure with the new programs in ethnomusicology, nursing and the hospitality area. The online dimension is special because we can extend our reach without having to build new buildings to facilitate the program. It will allow us to take great advantage of technology that so many students already have a grasp of.

Chancellor Nelms recognized Dr. George Wilson, professor of Criminal Justice and Chair of the Faculty Senate, who will receive the inaugural Award for Excellence in Public Service from the Board of Governors on October 12th. This new annual award was created to encourage, identify, recognize and reward distinguished public service and outreach by faculty across the University.

Chancellor Nelms noted that NCCU won a very exciting football game on September 22nd. What happened following the game was neither exciting nor acceptable. He met immediately following the game with the team and coaching staff and made it unequivocally clear that the behavior was inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Chancellor Battle and Chancellor
Nelms have had several conversations, issued a joint statement and will be meeting again today, hosting a joint press conference in Greensboro. Both Chancellors want the Board of Trustees to know that they are serving as the chief spokespersons for their respective campuses and want the trustees and the university community to know the intercollegiate sports has an important role in the undergraduate or collegiate experience. No individual or groups of individuals are greater than the university; we all are part of it. The Chancellors will take the action they deem most appropriate. Chancellor Nelms wants to assure the trustees we are under control of this situation, the behavior was unacceptable and will not be tolerated and we will move forward.

Trustee Stewart assured the Chancellor Nelms that the trustees have complete confidence as to how it will be handled and the trustees have his complete support.

Chairman Thigpen wanted the trustees to understand that they are 100% behind our Chancellor and the actions that will be taken regarding this matter and in the collaboration and cooperation between NCCU and A & T and in your discussions with Chancellor Battle. The only authorized spokesperson for this University is Chancellor Nelms. You recall there is document executed by the trustees that said the only spokesperson for this board is the chair. In this situation Chairman Thigpen is deferring to the Chancellor for any remarks, statements and decisions regarding this issue. He requested fellow board members to honor.

Trustee Michaux recalls several meetings with Chancellor Nelms, both individually and collectively. He noted Chancellor Nelms was just not placed here, but because of his experience and competency for this position. Trustee Michaux has learned to respect those attributes and for that reason the trustees have to place their trust in Chancellor Nelms’ decisions which have proven thus far in the 8 weeks, to be quite successful. Trustee Michaux indicates the trustees are 100% behind Chancellor Nelms. “We will start out together on this journey he is embarking upon.”

Trustee Larry also indicates as President of the Student Body this body supports and are in compliance in this decision and looks forward to his guidance in this matter.

Chancellor Nelms assured the trustees that everything he does will be guided by some important values. One is integrity and doing what he believes is right. May not be consistence what others may have him do, but he is guided by those two values. His decisions will always be govern by those two things.

In conclusion Chancellor Nelms is excited and delighted to be here and looks forward to working with each of the Trustees.
STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT: The Student Government Report was presented by Trustee Tomasi Larry. The NCCU Student Government Association Guidebook was distributed and attached. He highlighted the following:

- NCCUSGA Weeks and Format
- Consistent Meetings
- Initiatives
- Homecoming 2007
- Legislative Effectiveness Campaign
- Unity and Progress Campaign

NATIONAL ALUMNI REPORT: The National Alumni Report was presented by Mr. Richard Smith. He highlighted the following and his full report is attached:

- National Leadership Team
- Core Program Areas
- Current Environment/Issues
- Summary – Commitment, Compliance and Customer Service
- Association Support since July and Association Support through December 31
- Chapter Responsibilities

Chancellor Nelms commented by expressing his appreciation to the Alumni Association for all that they do to support NCCU. If you look at great universities they are able to capture and sustain the passion and commitment of alumni in lots of ways, monetarily, advocacy, etc.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT: The Faculty Senate Report was presented by Dr. George Wilson. He highlighted the following and his full report is attached:

- Election of Officers
- Concerns
- Faculty Equity Study
- Strengthening Faculty Governance
- Faculty Handbook Update

STAFF SENATE REPORT: The Staff Senate Report was presented by Ms. Rebie Coleman. She highlighted the following and her full report is attached:

- Successful Staff Institute on August 13, 2007
- Motto – *I AM NCCU*
- Staff Senate Executive Committee met with Chancellor Nelms on August 28, 2007
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- Book Loan Program for spring and fall semesters to continue
- Official name change from Employee Senate to Staff Senate
- Goals

Chancellor Nelms noted the importance of faculty and staff governance participation. It is not always about determining the outcome it is about having input and feeling the voice is represented. No matter how passionate we may be as leaders of the institution we can’t represent it quite as directly as faculty and staff can. That is one of the time honored traditions in an academic environment. Staff members should be provided the opportunity to participate in the governance process.

Trustee Miller moved that the committee convene in closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (5) and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6). The motion was properly seconded by Trustee Thomas and it carried.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The full board met and heard presentations from Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Beverly Jones and Attorney Kaye Webb regarding personnel matters. One action item was deferred until the November Board meeting.

There being no further business for closed session, Trustee Thigpen moved and it was properly seconded by Trustee Thomas to reconvene in open session. The motion carried.

**OPEN SESSION**

Trustee Miller moved and it was properly seconded by Trustee Thomas to approve the personnel matters discussed during closed session. The motion carried.

There being no additional business, it was moved by Trustee Thomas and properly seconded by Trustee Adams to adjourn. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Dottie Irving Fuller
Recorder