Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Monday, May 6, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Trustees Present:
Mr. Warner Session, J.D., chair
Dr. Carolyn Rudd, Ed.D., vice-chair
Mr. Lamont Akins, secretary
Mr. Albert Cacozza, trustee
Mr. Michael Dannenberg, trustee
Dr. Bisi Oyedele, trustee
Dr. Tracey Jackson, Ph.D., J.D, alumni representative
Mr. Josh Lopez, alumni representative
Mr. Kiran Terrelonge, student trustee
Dr. Maurice Edington, Ph.D., President, *ex-officio*

Trustees Absent:
Mr. Ken Grossinger, MSW, treasurer
Dr. Esther Barazzone, Ph.D., trustee
Ms. Amy Laitinen, trustee
Mr. David Croom, trustee
Mr. Bernard Grayson, alumni representative

Executive Cabinet Present

Mr. David Franklin, chief operating officer
Dr. Ruthie Little-Berry, Ph.D., chief student development and success officer
Dr. April Massey, Ph.D., chief academic officer
Ms. Frenika Rivers, chief of staff and director of board operations
Ms. Avis Russell, J.D., general counsel

Staff Participants

Ms. Janet Joiner, board secretary

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Session called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and welcomed trustees, senior staff, and guests. Ms. Joiner conducted roll call and confirmed a quorum was present.

Roll call:

Trustee	Present	Absent
Mr. Warner Session (Chair)	x	☐
Dr. Carolyn Rudd (Vice-Chair)	x	☐
Mr. Ken Grossinger (Treasurer)	☐	x
Mr. Lamont Akins (Secretary)	x	☐
Dr. Esther Barazzone	☐	x
Mr. David Croom	☐	x

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Trustee	Present	Absent
Dr. Michael Dannenberg	x	☐
Dr. Bisi Oyedele	x	☐
Mr. Bernard Grayson	☐	x
Dr. Tracey Jackson	x	☐
Mr. Josh Lopez	x	☐
Mr. Kiran Terrelonge	x	☐
Mr. Albert Cacozza	x	☐
Ms. Amy Laitinen	☐	x
Dr. Maurice Edington *(ex-officio)*	x	

Chairman's Remarks

Chair Session made a motion to add the governance matter considered the committee the whole to the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved with a roll call vote.

Acknowledgment of Staff/Student Recognition

Staff Recognition – Christopher Spencer

Chair Session recognized Christopher Spencer, Manager of Business Operations for Auxiliary Enterprises, for his service and contributions to the University. Mr. Spencer briefly described the responsibilities of Auxiliary Enterprises, including oversight of the reproduction center, mail services, food services, and parking operations.

Student Recognition – Kayleah Shelton

Dr. Little-Berry recognized Kayleah Shelton, Student Government Association President (2025–2026), for her leadership and accomplishments, including:

- Establishment of a permanent student leadership space in the Student Center.
- Expansion and strengthening of the SGA structure.
- Reactivation of the SGA Judicial Branch.
- Creation of an Elections Committee.
- Revision of SGA bylaws.
- Campus-wide student engagement initiatives and surveys.
- Launch of the UDC CARE pitch competition.
- Development of the student-athlete snack bar initiative.

Faculty Recognition – Dr. Tolessa Deksissa

Dr. Massey recognized Dr. Tolessa Deksissa for his leadership of the Water Resources Institute, oversight of UDC's certified water quality testing laboratory, administration of Professional Science Master's degree programs, and leadership of interdisciplinary research initiatives.

Approval of Minutes

An action to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2026, meeting was brought before the Board. Trustee Cacozza proposed a correction to clarify the language regarding the authorization of General Counsel to seek resolution of a governance matter. Dr. Jackson proposed corrections to the recorded vote counts and voting records related to the election of Board officers. Trustee Oyedele confirmed that his affirmative vote had been incorrectly recorded as an abstention. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Roll call vote.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Warner Session (Chair)	x	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd (Vice-Chair)	x	x	☐
Ken Grossinger (Treasurer)	☐	☐	☐
Lamont Akins (Secretary)	x	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐
David Croom	x	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	x	☐	☐
Bisi Oyedele	x	☐	☐
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	x	☐	☐
Kiran Terrelonge	x	☐	☐
Albert Cacozza	x	☐	☐
Amy Laitinen	x	☐	☐

- **Motion: Chair Session**
- **Second: Mr. Cacozza**

Action Items

Resolution: Approval of the Master of Social Work (MSW) Program, College of Arts & Sciences

The proposed Master of Social Work program in the College of Arts and Sciences was presented for Board approval. The motion to approve the Master of Social Work program in the College of Arts and Sciences was seconded, and the motion carried.

- **Motion: Dr. Jackson**
- **Second: Dr. Oyedele**

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Barazzone	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Croom	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Dannenberg	X	☐	☐
Dr. Oyedele	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grayson	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Jackson	X	☐	☐
Mr. Lopez	X	☐	☐
Mr. Terrelonge	X	☐	☐
Mr. Cacozza	X	☐	☐
Ms. Laitinen	☐	☐	☐

Resolution: Executive Appointment of Dr. Lewis Johnson as Chief Research Officer and Senior Vice President for Research

Trustees reviewed the appointment of Dr. Lewis Johnson as Chief Research Officer and Senior Vice President for Research. Chair Session commented on Dr. Johnson's extensive credentials and noted that the University had secured an exceptional candidate for the position. The motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Lewis Johnson as Chief Research Officer and Senior Vice President for Research was seconded, and the motion carried.

- **Motion: Dr. Rudd**
- **Second: Mr. Cacozza**

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Barazzone	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Croom	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Dannenberg	X	☐	☐
Dr. Oyedele	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grayson	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Jackson	X	☐	☐
Mr. Lopez	X	☐	☐
Mr. Terrelonge	X	☐	☐
Mr. Cacozza	X	☐	☐
Ms. Laitinen	☐	☐	☐

Resolution: Executive Appointment of Mr. Romie Prince as Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate Management

Trustees reviewed the appointment of Mr. Romie Prince as Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate Management. Chair Session acknowledged the search process and recognized the highly qualified candidate pool. He expressed confidence in Mr. Prince's ability to lead facilities and real estate operations. The motion to approve the appointment of Romie Prince as Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate Management was seconded, and the motion carried.

- **Motion: Dr. Rudd**
- **Second: Mr. Cacozza**

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Barazzone	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Croom	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Dannenberg	X	☐	☐
Dr. Oyedele	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grayson	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Jackson	X	☐	☐
Mr. Lopez	X	☐	☐
Mr. Terrelonge	X	☐	☐
Mr. Cacozza	X	☐	☐
Ms. Laitinen	☐	☐	☐

Resolution: Approval of Modification No. 1 to the Rooftop License Agreement between T-Mobile Northeast and the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia

Trustees reviewed Modification No. 1 to the Rooftop License Agreement between T-Mobile Northeast and the University. The motion to approve the resolution was seconded, and the motion carried.

- **Motion: Dr. Rudd**
- **Second: Mr. Cacozza**

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	☐	☐	☐

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Barazzone	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Croom	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Dannenberg	X	☐	☐
Dr. Oyedele	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grayson	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Jackson	X	☐	☐
Mr. Lopez	X	☐	☐
Mr. Terrelonge	X	☐	☐
Mr. Cacozza	X	☐	☐
Ms. Laitinen	☐	☐	☐

Resolution: Approval of Follett Bookstore Lease Agreement

Trustee Lopez requested clarification regarding rent abatement during the first two lease years. Chief Operating Officer David Franklin explained that the University is unable to provide tenant improvement funding and has utilized rent abatement as an incentive to attract commercial tenants. He noted that this approach has been successful in leasing other storefront properties.

Trustee Cacozza inquired about the bookstore relocation process and whether services would be disrupted. Mr. Franklin indicated that operations would continue uninterrupted during the transition to the new location at 4250 Connecticut Avenue.

Trustee Cacozza also requested information regarding future use of the bookstore's current space. President Edington reported that the University has engaged a consultant to conduct a feasibility study evaluating several potential uses for Building 38 and that recommendations are expected in the coming months. The motion to approve the resolution was seconded, and the motion carried.

- **Motion: Dr. Rudd**
- **Second: Mr. Cacozza**

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Barazzone	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Croom	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Dannenberg	X	☐	☐
Dr. Oyedele	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grayson	X	☐	☐
Dr. Jackson	X	☐	☐
Mr. Lopez	X	☐	☐
Mr. Terrelonge	X	☐	☐
Mr. Cacozza	X	☐	☐
Ms. Laitinen	☐	☐	☐

Resolution: Approval of FY26 Student Housing Lease Agreements – 3003 Van Ness

Trustees reviewed the proposed lease of 12 apartments to support student housing needs. The motion to approve the resolution was seconded, and the motion carried.

- **Motion: Dr. Rudd**
- **Second: Mr. Cacozza**

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Barazzone	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Croom	☐	☐	☐

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Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Dr. Dannenberg	X	☐	☐
Dr. Oyedele	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grayson	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Jackson	X	☐	☐
Mr. Lopez	X	☐	☐
Mr. Terrelonge	X	☐	☐
Mr. Cacozza	X	☐	☐
Ms. Laitinen	☐	☐	☐

Report of the President

President Edington reported that the Mayor's proposed FY27 budget includes an approximate 9.6 percent reduction in University subsidy funding. He noted that advocacy efforts successfully restored approximately $1.98 million that had initially been proposed for reduction. However, an additional reduction affecting workforce development programs remains under consideration.

He highlighted proposed capital investments, including infrastructure improvements, completion of the CRM implementation project, funding to support the student housing public-private partnership initiative, and future funding for improvements to Building 46.

President Edington reported that nine firms responded to the RFQ process and that five teams advanced to the RFP stage. He also identified members of the evaluation team and outlined next steps in the selection process.

President Edington announced that UDC is now eligible to participate in WMATA's Metro U-Pass Program. Trustees discussed the significance of the opportunity and acknowledged prior student advocacy efforts that helped bring attention to transportation affordability concerns.

President Edington invited trustees to participate in commencement activities and the honorary recognition ceremony.

Report of the Chairperson

Chair Session thanked trustees who participated in the governance orientation workshop and announced plans for follow-up sessions.

Chair Session also discussed opportunities to strengthen technology transfer, commercialization, and intellectual property initiatives at the University. He shared insights gained from discussions with leadership at Stanford regarding innovation and licensing programs and expressed interest in developing similar revenue-generating opportunities at UDC.

Chair Session further highlighted UDC's participation in the opening of the F.H. Faunteroy Center and Resilience Incubator and recognized CAUSES faculty and staff for their leadership in sustainability and community partnership initiatives.

New Business

Chair Session recognized Student Trustee Terrelonge for his service during the academic year and commended his representation of the University at national conferences and governance events.

Trustee Terrelonge presented a proposal establishing a Student Leadership Wall of Fame and an Official Freshman Induction Ceremony. He explained that the initiatives are intended to preserve institutional history, strengthen student engagement, create meaningful traditions, and foster a greater sense of community and belonging among students.

Chair Session praised the proposal and encouraged future student leadership to continue advancing the initiative. Trustees also discussed exploring longer terms of service for future student trustees.

A motion was introduced to adjourn by Chair Session to conduct an executive session to D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(4)(A) to obtain legal advice and preserve attorney-client privilege. He announced that the board would not return to the meeting at the conclusion of the executive session. The motion to approve the executive session was seconded, and the motion carried.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	☐	☐
Dr. Barazzone	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Croom	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Dannenberg	X	☐	☐
Dr. Oyedele	X	☐	☐
Mr. Grayson	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Jackson	X	☐	☐
Mr. Lopez	X	☐	☐
Mr. Terrelonge	X	☐	☐
Mr. Cacozza	X	☐	☐
Ms. Laitinen	☐	☐	☐

- **Motion: Mr. Dannenberg**
- **Second: Mr. Akins**

The open session concluded at 7:08 PM.