Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Monday, June 17, 2026 – 7:11 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

Trustees Absent:
Ms. Amy Laitinen, trustee
Dr. Bisi Oyedele, trustee
Mr. Josh Lopez, 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
Dr. Devdas Shetty, dean of school of engineering and applied sciences

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Session called the meeting to order at 7:11 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
Dr. Tracey Jackson, secretary	x	☐

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Monday, June 17, 2026 – 7:11 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Trustee	Present	Absent
Mr. Lamont Akins	x	☐
Dr. Esther Barazzone	x	☐
Mr. Albert Cacozza	x	☐
Mr. David Croom	x	☐
Dr. Michael Dannenberg	☐	x
Ms. Amy Laitinen	☐	x
Dr. Bisi Oyedele	☐	x
Mr. Bernard Grayson	x	☐
Mr. Josh Lopez	☐	x
Dr. Maurice Edington *(ex-officio)*	x	☐

Chair Session thanked trustees, university leadership, faculty, staff, and attendees for their participation throughout the academic year. He reflected on the Board's accomplishments and noted that while progress remains ongoing, the University had made substantial advances during the year. He highlighted the Board's recent endorsement of President Edington and expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts of trustees and university leadership.

Chair Session also acknowledged recently hired members of the leadership team, including Vice President Johnson, who oversees procurement, and other administrative hires who have strengthened University operations. He further thanked trustees who participated in the recent Board orientation, noting that the session generated productive discussion, ambitious goals, and ideas for the coming academic year. As part of the Board's ongoing practice of recognizing faculty, staff, and students, Chair Session presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Zillah Wesley, Senior Manager of Events and Operations, in recognition of her commitment and service to Firebird Nation.

Approval of Minutes

An action to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2026, meeting was brought before the Board. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Monday, June 17, 2026 – 7:11 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Roll call vote

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
Warner Session (Chair)	X	☐	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	☐	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger (Treasurer)	☐	☐	☐	x
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
Albert Cacozza	x	☐	☐	☐
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐	x

Approval the minutes of the May 13, 2026, special meeting was brought before the Board. Trustee Cacozza noted an inconsistency in the draft minutes. The minutes reflected that Trustee Lopez and Trustee Terrelonge had been absent from the meeting, while also indicating they cast votes on several motions.

The Board approved the May 13, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes as corrected.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
Warner Session (Chair)	X	☐	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	☐	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger (Treasurer)	☐	☐	☐	x
Lamont Akins (Secretary)	X	☐	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	X	☐	☐	☐
David Croom	☐	☐	x	☐
Michael Dannenberg	☐	☐	☐	x

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐	x
Bernard Grayson	☐	☐	x	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐	x
Albert Cacozza	x	☐	☐	☐
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐	x

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

<u>Approval of the President's Performance Evaluation</u>

The Board considered the recommendation from the Committee of the Whole regarding President Edington's performance evaluation. Dr. Rudd moved approval of the President's evaluation as recommended by the committee of the whole and Trustee Akins seconded the motion. No additional discussion was offered. The motion carried, with Trustee Cacozza abstaining from the vote.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
Warner Session, chair	x	☐	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd, vice chair	x	☐	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger, treasurer	☐	☐	☐	x
Tracey Jackson, secretary	x	☐	☐	☐
Lamont Akins	x	☐	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐	☐
Albert Cacozza	☐	☐	x	☐
David Croom	x	☐	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	☐	☐	☐	x
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐	x
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐	x
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐	☐

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐	x

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

<u>Authorization for Follow-up on the President’s Performance Evaluation</u>

Trustee Barazzone moved that the Board authorize the chair to take any necessary follow-up action related to the President's evaluation, discussion in executive session. Trustee Akins seconded the motion. Following brief discussion and clarification that the authorization would allow implementation of actions arising from the Board's decisions, the motion was approved.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
Warner Session, chair	x	☐	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd, vice chair	x	☐	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger, treasurer	☐	☐	☐	x
Tracey Jackson, secretary	x	☐	☐	☐
Lamont Akins	x	☐	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐	☐
Albert Cacozza	☐	☐	x	☐
David Croom	x	☐	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	☐	☐	☐	x
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐	x
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐	x
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐	x

- **Motion: Dr. Barazzone**
- **Second: Mr. Akins**

Distinguished Professor - Dr. Pawan Tyagi

The Board approved the appointment of Dr. Pawan Tyagi as Distinguished Professor in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Dean Shetty and Trustee Barazzone highlighted Dr. Tyagi's distinguished record of research, teaching, student mentorship, grant funding, and national recognition, including his ranking among the top two percent of scientists worldwide in his field. Following the presentation and discussion of his contributions to the University and the broader scientific community, Trustee Barazzone moved the resolution, Trustee Akins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
Warner Session, chair	x	☐	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd, vice chair	x	☐	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger, treasurer	☐	☐	☐	x
Tracey Jackson, secretary	x	☐	☐	☐
Lamont Akins	x	☐	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐	☐
Albert Cacozza	x	☐	☐	☐
David Croom	x	☐	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	☐	☐	☐	x
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐	x
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐	x
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐	x

- **Motion: Dr. Barazzone**
- **Second: Mr. Akins**

Executive Appointment – Dean: David A. Clarke School of Law

The Board approved the appointment of Angela Gilmore as Dean of the David A. Clarke School of Law, effective June 29, 2026. Dr. Massey presented Ms. Gilmore's qualifications and leadership accomplishments, including her successful management of the Law

School's ABA accreditation process and her strategic vision for the school's future. President Edington and Dr. Jackson spoke in support of the appointment, citing her leadership, collaborative approach, and commitment to advancing the Law School. Dr. Rudd moved approval of the executive appointment of Ms. Angela Gilmore as the dean of the David A. Clarke School of Law. Trustee Akins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
Warner Session, chair	x	☐	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd, vice chair	x	☐	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger, treasurer	☐	☐	☐	x
Tracey Jackson, secretary	x	☐	☐	☐
Lamont Akins	x	☐	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐	☐
Albert Cacozza	x	☐	☐	☐
David Croom	x	☐	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	☐	☐	☐	x
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐	x
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐	x
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐	x

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

<u>Approval of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, amendment to DCMR title 8B, Chapter 7, Section 728.9</u>

The Board considered a proposed amendment to the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations related to student health insurance fees. Dr. Little-Berry explained that the University's current insurance provider had proposed a significant premium increase, prompting the administration to identify a more affordable alternative. Under the proposed arrangement with Aetna, students would receive comparable coverage, including vision benefits, at a lower overall cost. Following questions from Trustee Cacozza regarding contract duration and implementation, Dr. Rudd moved approval of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, amendment to DCMR title 8B, Chapter 7, Section 728.9, which is the listing of miscellaneous student fees, student health insurance. Dr. Jackson seconded, and the Board approved publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and initiation of the required public comment process.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
Warner Session, chair	x	☐	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd, vice chair	x	☐	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger, treasurer	x	☐	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson, secretary	x	☐	☐	☐
Lamont Akins	x	☐	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐	☐
Albert Cacozza	x	☐	☐	☐
David Croom	x	☐	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	x	☐	☐	☐
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐	x
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐	x
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐	x

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

Report of the President

President Edington began his report by thanking the Board of Trustees for its continued confidence in his leadership and expressed appreciation for the support provided to him and the University over the past three years. He reflected on the commitments he made upon becoming president and credited the University's progress to the collective efforts of faculty, staff, students, administrators, and community partners. He then provided updates on key strategic priorities, including the FY2027 budget, where he reported encouraging developments in the District's budget process. These included proposed funding for the acquisition of the Old Congress Heights property, continued support for the student housing initiative, and additional operational and programmatic funding opportunities. He also highlighted positive enrollment trends, noting increases in applications, student commitments, and registrations for the upcoming academic year.

The President reported on several initiatives supporting workforce development, campus transformation, and student success. He highlighted the success of the cybersecurity apprenticeship partnership with Accenture and PeopleShores, noting that most participants in the inaugural cohort successfully completed the program and many received employment offers. He also provided an update on the student housing public-private partnership project, reporting that proposal reviews and interviews with development teams were progressing toward the finalist stage. In addition, President Edington shared fundraising and advancement updates, including growth in charitable giving, alumni engagement, and strategic partnerships. He emphasized ongoing efforts to expand Foundation Board membership, strengthen donor cultivation, and position the University for future fundraising campaigns.

President Edington concluded by discussing stakeholder engagement, institutional visibility, and accountability initiatives. He highlighted the University's recognition of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton for her longstanding advocacy and financial support of UDC, as well as opportunities to elevate the University's national profile through leadership forums, media appearances, and public engagement activities. He also emphasized UDC's role as an anchor institution serving District residents through community partnerships and campus access programs and noted the University's recent recognition by Van Ness Main Street as an Outstanding Community Partner. Finally, he reported on a leadership summit focused on enrollment growth and student success, underscoring the administration's commitment to accountability, alignment, and achieving the goals outlined in the University's strategic plan. Following his report, he responded to Board questions regarding the cybersecurity apprenticeship program and provided an update on efforts to strengthen collaboration among the Board of Trustees, the UDC Foundation Board, and the Law School Foundation Board.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee
No Report

Committee of the Whole
No report

Academic & Student Affairs
Trustee Barazzone addressed the committee's recent decision to postpone action on pending tenure recommendations.
She emphasized that the delay:

- Reflected no concerns regarding candidate qualifications or achievements.
- Was intended to provide newer trustees additional training regarding tenure policies and procedures.
- Would allow trustees to better understand the significance of tenure within higher education governance.

She further stated the committee anticipated resolution of the matter within approximately ten weeks and reassured faculty that the delay would not negatively affect anticipated salary or promotion timelines.

Audit, Budget & Finance
No report

Operations
No Report

New Business

Dr. Jackson reported that the Board's DCMR task force had completed its work and wished to present recommendations. She also requested that Alumni Task Force have time on a future agenda to discuss engagement opportunities with the Office of Advancement.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

- **Motion: Mr. Akins**
- **Second: Dr. Jackson**