



Cato College of Education Dean’s Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 2025, | 1:00 PM–3:00 PM

UNC Charlotte | Cato College of Education

Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Members Apologies

Dean Malcolm B. Butler	Ms. Emily Francis
Dr. Aaron Allen	
Mr. Reeves McGlohon	
Ms. Trina Fullard	
Ms. J Evelyn Bonner-Reed	
Dr. Munro Richardson	
Dr. Crystal L. Hill	
Ms. Isha Goode	
Ms. Jackie Whitfield	
Ms. Judy Pugh Executive Assistant	

Guests

- Penny Hawkins, Associate Vice Chancellor | Development
- Dr. Tisha Greene, Associate Dean for Teacher Preparation and Undergraduate Education | Office of the Dean

Reference this college website for Advisory Board Information:

<https://education.charlotte.edu/about-college/advisory-board/>

Dean’s Advisory Board Meeting Recap

The meeting covered a wide range of topics related to the college's operations, initiatives, and challenges in education. Discussions included University Development, Undergraduate Education and Teacher Preparation, Supporting Research/Graduate Education, Mebane Early Literacy Center (MELC), Teacher Induction & Alumni Engagement, School and Community Partnerships, and the role of the advisory board in providing insights and advocacy for the college.

Meeting Summary

Advisory Board Meeting

Dean Butler discusses several topics, including our current event (Niner Nation Gives), and the previous advisory board meeting.

Advisory Board Meeting and College Updates

Dean Butler welcomed the Advisory Board members to the meeting, expressing gratitude for their attendance and contributions. He outlined the meeting's agenda, which included introductions, an overview of the Public Advisory Board, and presentations from the University and college colleague. Dean Butler also highlighted the importance of the Advisory Board's role in providing insights and advice on the college's strengths and areas for improvement. He emphasized the need for the board's members to act as organic advocates for the college, sharing their experiences and connections with the community. Dean Butler also discussed the college's focus on recruiting high-quality educators, hiring seven for the Fall 2025 Academic Year. The conversation ended with Penny Hawkins, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development, providing an update on the Growth in Fundraising, Niner Nation Gives and "For the Love of Charlotte" Campaign.

University Development | Penny Hawkins

Penny Hawkins discussed the various fundraising initiatives in the University/College, including the new campaign "For the Love of Charlotte." She provided a rundown of the Growth in Fundraising over the years, the results of Niner Nation Gives and what the new campaign entails "For the Love of Charlotte is a defining moment for UNC Charlotte-a time to unite and build a legacy that will shape lives, fuel discoveries and strengthen the city we call home. With every gift, we're opening doors for students, advancing academic and research excellence, and enriching our community's cultural vibrancy." Penny shared a video that she will also email to the board members. Dean Butler added the video to the Chat of the meeting.

Undergraduate Education and Teacher Preparation | Dr. Tisha Greene

Dean Butler introduced Dr. Tisha Greene, the new Associate Dean for Teacher Preparation and Undergraduate Education. Dr. Greene addressed Teacher Retention and two Mentor Teacher Projects (Project 1 | Asynchronous Modules and Project 2 | Mentor Summit). The projects launch in July/August 2025. Dr. Greene also shared valuable information regarding the National Board Cohort and its purpose. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the process of initial certification & renewal and provide space and opportunity for collaboration on completion of the portfolio requirements. Dr. Greene let the board know that she will be meeting with Superintendents & Cabinet members of each district in the SWEA to discuss several topics.

Research and Graduate Education | Dr. Scott Kissau

Dean Butler shared with the board the total amount awarded to the College of Education (\$13.78M/45) and the challenges/opportunities. Supporting Graduate Education | Grant-Funded Cohorts. UNC Charlotte's Education graduate programs ranked in the top 10% nationally by U.S. News and World Report. Strategic Partnerships with Southwest Education Alliance (SWEA) and North Carolina Association of Independent Schools. See slides with graduate enrollment per year with enrollment challenges/opportunities.

Mebane Early Literacy Center (MELC) | Dr. Angela Preston

Dean Butler gave an update on the Mebane Early Literacy Center, it's 3 Pillars, future expansion and funding to Cato College of Education.

Teacher Induction & Alumni Engagement | Elisabeth Wilson

Dean Butler updated the advisory board NC New Teacher Support, NC Teaching Fellows and Alumni Engagement. Dean Butler highlighted the New Teacher Support Program, a statewide initiative that provides support for teachers in their first three years of teaching. The NC NTSP provides each teacher with instructional skills institute, Intensive, individualized classroom coaching and aligned professional development sessions. He also mentioned the Teacher Fellows Program, a forgivable loan program for students planning to become teachers. The NC Teaching Fellows goal is to increase the number of Teaching Fellows enrolling at UNC Charlotte by 20%. There are 530 Teaching Fellows selected for 2025-2026. 252 students said that UNC Charlotte was one of their top 4 choices. 63 of them said we are their #1 choice, and 51 said we are #2 (29 will be internal {current students}). Alumni Engagement will reach out to alumni via newsletters, events, websites, etc. to provide them with information and the opportunities to engage with what's happening in the College of Education. Dean Butler emphasized the need for more funding and resources to expand these programs.

School and Community Partnerships | Dr. Ann Jolly

Dean Butler provided partnership, events updates, and mentions the progress of the new student management placement system, Sonia. He emphasized the importance of partnerships and collaborations and mentioned this year past events (Education Expo & Teacher 2 Teacher Conference) and the NC Annual Inclusion Summit (June 12-13, 2025).

College Highlights | Dean Butler

- R1 Designation
- 7 New Faculty for Fall 2025
- Retaining Current faculty
- Maintaining and increasing grant productivity
- Expanding partnerships

Updates on Next Steps from November 14, 2024, Board Meeting

Dean Butler to follow up on expanding community surveys beyond Mecklenburg County to include other districts in the region.

Update: ongoing

Elisabeth Wilson to reach out to HR contacts in school districts about creating 3-to-5-minute recruitment videos.

Update: ongoing

Ann Jolly to connect with HR directors about sharing education expo information with school districts.

Update: Information was shared and several school districts attending the Spring expo.

Dean Butler to explore idea of recognizing teachers/principals from multiple districts at a UNC Charlotte athletic event.

Update: Ongoing

Communications Director to develop strategy for sharing scholarship information with families, not just students.

Update: OSCP and Teacher Recruiter share information at prospective and admitted student events

Brad Smith to prepare easily digestible information on Praxis Core research for advocacy efforts.

Update: this information was provided; bill to eliminate ALL testing is now being considered.

Dean Butler to check with admissions about having bilingual recruiters available for high school visits.

Update: Admissions Office has two Spanish-speaking recruiters.

Angela Preston to explore adding anecdotal notes feature in Sonia placement system.

Update: ongoing

Scott Kissau to investigate partnering with community colleges on Praxis Core advocacy efforts.

Update: ongoing

Dean Butler to share language with Advisory Board members for advocating removal of Praxis Core requirements.

Update: Language from Brad Smith was shared via PEPSC.

Advisory Board members to consider serving as Advisory Board chair and reach out to Malcolm if interested.

Update: Aaron Allen agreed to serve in this role. Butler and Allen will meet to discuss role and plan transition

Brad Smith/Elisabeth Wilson to explore ways to track and recruit students considering Teachers of Tomorrow Program.

Update: ongoing

Ann Jolly to ensure all HR contacts receive information about creating recruitment videos.

Update: OSCP has reached all HR offices to share this information.

Next Steps from April 10, 2025, Board Meeting

Penny Hawkins to email the Advisory Board members the video.

Update: Done; and Dean Butler shared link in Chat:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmekpc9fDwY&t=6s>

Elisabeth Wilson to locate lists of alumni for the local school districts (e.g., Lincoln County Schools, CMS, etc.)

Update:

Caroline Freeman to explore 30-second videos of alumni via UCOMM.

Update:

Dr. Tisha Greene to email the Advisory Board members her contact information and the Teacher Summit information.

Update:

Dean Butler to explore digital marketing with UCOMM for how to optimize Google searches (e.g., if one types in “Become a Teacher,” Cato College should be on the first page, and it’s not right now.

Update:

Dean Butler announced next Advisory Board Meeting(in-person) | Date: TBD | Location: UNC Charlotte | Cato College of Education

Update:

Adjournment: 3:00 PM | Dean Butler

