



*Cato College of Education Dean's Advisory Board Meeting*

Thursday, November 14, 2024 | 8:00 AM–12:00 PM

UNC Charlotte | Mebane Hall | COED 110

**Members Present**

**Members Apologies**

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

**Guests**

- Dr. Scott Kissau, Associate Dean | Office of the Dean
- Dr. Angela Preston, Director | Mebane Early Literacy Center
- Dr. Brad Smith, Director | Assessment and Accreditation
- Ms. Elisabeth Wilson, Director | Teacher Induction & Alumni Engagement
- Dr. Ann Jolly, Interim Assistant Dean | School and Community Partnerships

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 research programs, student support, community partnerships, and the role of the advisory board in providing insights and advocacy for the college. The meeting also addressed recruitment strategies, teacher education programs, and the potential impact of AI in adult learning, while emphasizing the importance of diversity, inclusion, and family engagement in education.

**Meeting Summary**

**Weather and Advisory Board Meeting**

Dean Butler discusses various topics, including an upcoming event, and a previous advisory board meeting. He mentions that the last meeting had technical issues due to weather and expresses hope that the current rainy conditions will clear up for this advisory board meeting.

### **Advisory Board Meeting and College Updates**

Dean Butler welcomed the Advisory Board members to the first in-person 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 various college colleagues. 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 and the need for both quantitative and qualitative improvements in this area. The conversation ended with Dr. Scott Kissau, the associate dean for research and graduate education, providing an update on research and graduate education initiatives and challenges.

### **College Research Initiatives and Challenges**

Dr. Kissau discussed the various research initiatives in the college, including a faculty research mentoring program, seed funding opportunities, and a research enhancement plan for new faculty. He also mentioned the launch of the AERA doctoral student membership program and a new initiative to involve more undergraduate students in research. Dr. Kissau highlighted the college's strong research performance, but expressed concerns about pre- and post-award support, graduate assistant compensation, and student enrollment. He suggested potential solutions such as streamlining programs, offering credit for prior learning, and enhancing financial literacy for students. Dr. Kissau also mentioned the need to balance quality and quantity in their programs, particularly in the counseling master's program.

### **Supporting Underrepresented Students in Higher Ed**

Dean Butler discussed the importance of welcoming and supporting underrepresented students in higher education. He highlighted the need for programs that help students overcome hurdles, such as the teaching exam, and emphasized the importance of reaching out to families to ensure students' success. Dean Butler also mentioned the university's new communication director and the potential for hiring a bilingual student worker for recruitment events. The university's emerging Hispanic Serving Institution status was also discussed, with a focus on ensuring students' success after graduation. The team agreed to explore the possibility of hiring a bilingual student worker and to share information about scholarships and financial aid with families.

### **Introducing Mebane Early Leadership Center**

Dean Butler introduced Dr. Angela Preston, the new director of the Mebane Early Leadership Center, who shared the center's mission, vision, and goals. The center focuses on teacher development, community partnerships, and research. It offers scholarships, professional development, and outreach programs. Dr. Preston also discussed the center's response to the recent closing of a tutoring provider, with plans to provide a protocol and passages for repeated reading. The discussion also touched on the importance of community partnerships and the potential for grant funding. The team also discussed the need for more male elementary teachers and the potential for connecting with high school counselors to encourage more males to pursue education.

### **Expanding Family Engagement and Literacy**

Dean Butler discussed the importance of family engagement and literacy issues, suggesting that the program could expand beyond Mecklenburg County to include other nonprofits in the region. He also highlighted the need for intentional engagement beyond the county and the potential for

partnerships with organizations like the YMCA. Dean Butler emphasized the importance of understanding the nuances of community engagement and the need for a broader impact. He also discussed the increasing trend of alternative licensure programs and the potential for these programs to produce more teachers. Dean Butler concluded by highlighting the significant number of UCF Charlotte alumni working in North Carolina public schools, particularly in leadership positions.

### **Addressing Teacher Education Program Barriers**

Dean Butler discussed the challenges faced by teacher education programs, particularly the requirement of passing the Praxis Core exam as a barrier to enrollment. He suggested that removing this requirement could increase the pool of potential applicants, especially for transfer students. Dean Butler also highlighted the need for better collaboration with universities to ensure students are aware of available scholarships and programs. He emphasized the importance of understanding market signals and being intentional about the information collected to improve recruitment strategies. The team also discussed the potential of attracting more students to their programs by offering flexible options such as online courses.

### **Advisory Board and Teacher Programs**

Dean Butler discussed the importance of the advisory board in fostering conversations and collaborations among different organizations. He introduced Dr. Ann Jolly, the Interim Assistant Dean for the Office of School and Community Partnerships, and Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, who oversees Teacher Induction 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. He also mentioned the Teacher Fellows Program, a forgivable loan program for students planning to become teachers. Dean Butler emphasized the need for more funding and resources to expand these programs. The conversation ended with a discussion on the Teacher Fellows Program's funding and the process of accepting students.

### **New Student Management System Progress**

Dr. Jolly discussed the progress of the new student management placement system, Sonia, which has been in use since July. She highlighted the system's potential for tracking student progress and providing feedback, and its ability to facilitate communication between stakeholders. Dean Butler also mentioned the need for more space in the building due to the growing number of faculty and staff. He emphasized the importance of partnerships and collaborations and mentioned the upcoming Teacher to Teacher Conference and the annual Inclusion Summit. Dean Butler also discussed the college's fundraising goals, with a target of raising \$42 million over the next five years. He encouraged the team to provide feedback on how to improve the system and partnerships.

### **AI in Adult Learning and Events**

Dean Butler discussed the potential of AI in adult learning and its potential to enhance teaching and learning. She mentioned a new search for a faculty member with experience in AI and the creation of workshops for faculty members to familiarize them with AI. Dean Butler also highlighted the success of a program that brought school kids to the campus to encourage them to consider teaching as a career. He also mentioned the upcoming Thanksgiving food drive for the Charlotte Rescue Mission and the Community Matters Cafe's Christmas celebration. Lastly, he proposed a virtual meeting for the next gathering.

## **Next Steps**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Adjournment:** 12:00 PM | Dean Butler

