

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**Wednesday, December 10, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Trustees Present:**

Mr. Warner Session, J.D., chair  
Dr. Carolyn Rudd, Ed.D., vice-chair  
Mr. Ken Grossinger, MSW, treasurer  
Dr. Esther Barazzone, Ph.D., trustee  
Mr. David Croom, trustee  
Mr. Michael Dannenberg, trustee  
Mr. Bernard Grayson, trustee  
Dr. Tracey Jackson, Ph.D., Esq., trustee  
Mr. Josh Lopez, trustee  
Mr. Kiran Terrelonge, trustee  
Dr. Maurice Edington, Ph.D., President, *ex-officio*

**Trustees Absent:**

Mr. Lamont Akins, secretary

**Executive Cabinet Present:**

Mr. David Franklin, chief operating officer  
Dr. Ruthie Little-Berry, Ph.D., chief student development and success officer  
Dr. Richard Lucas, Ph.D., chief development 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:**

Mr. Stephan Byam, vice president, information technology  
Ms. Maria Byrd, vice president for innovation and transformation  
Mr. Shawn Celio, vice president, human resources  
Mr. Patrick Gusman, deputy chief of staff and director of corporate relations  
Ms. Janet Joiner, board secretary  
Ms. LeKisha Jordan, interim vice president for community and government affairs  
Ms. Patricia Thomas, athletic director  
Dr. Hasanna Tyus, vice president, enrollment services  
Ms. Annie Whately, associate vice president, external affairs

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Session called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed trustees, senior staff, and guests. Ms. Joiner conducted roll call and confirmed a quorum was present.

### **Acknowledgment of Staff Recognition**

Fatima Elshobosky recognized Mr. Pat Kitrell, senior education technology specialist for his furtherance for the learning operation, but also to our institution's digital transformation in addition to his expertise, excellence, and strong commitment to the UDC mission. Mr. Kitrell was honored with a certificate of appreciation for his student-facing service and enthusiastic representation of the University.

Dr. Massey recognized Mr. Albert Pearsall, assistant professor, business administration and president of the faculty union for his exceptional work ensuring faculty members had working conditions that honor their expertise and the commitments they bring. Mr. Pearsall was honored with a certificate of appreciation for his support and commitment to Firebird Nation.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2025, board meeting. The motion was seconded and approved with a roll call vote.

### **Agenda Updates**

Dr. Rudd introduced a motion to add Operating Budget Amendment #2 and two executive appointments, one for Vice President for External Affairs and the second for Interim Vice President for Government and Community Relations and extension to the term to the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved with a roll call vote.

Chair Session introduced the resolution moved to the full Board by the Audit, Budget & Finance Committee.

#### *UDC RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 49*

#### **APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED FY2026 OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT #2**

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C. Code §38-1202.06(4), the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the University of the District of Columbia (“University”) is “required to prepare and submit to the Mayor . . . . an annual budget request for each fiscal year”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §400.2, the President of the University shall prepare an operating budget for Educational and General activities of the University, and an operating budget for Auxiliary Enterprise operations of the University; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §400.1, the Board shall approve all budgets for expenditures of the institutions of the University and, pursuant to 8B DCMR §400.4, any expansion in operations that would necessitate any substantial change in the approved budget shall be submitted to the Board for its approval; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to UDC Resolution No. 2023-45, the Board approved a proposed budget

request for Fiscal Year 2026 for the University (“Proposed FY2026 Budget and Financial Plan and Capital Budget Request”), which request was then submitted to the Government of the District of Columbia (“D.C. Government”) for inclusion in its draft FY2026 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan; and

*WHEREAS, The Board approved the FY2026 Operating Budget Amendment #1 under UDC Resolution No. 2025-48, which increased UDC’s local appropriated subsidy by \$2,378,431.00 to restore original FY2026 MARC reductions.*

WHEREAS, the Mayor issued a directive that the University must submit a mid-year reduction to its FY2026 appropriation from the District in the amount of Two Million Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety-Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$2,982,698), requiring a reduction of this amount in the University’s FY2026 operating budget; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY2026 Operating Budget Amendment #2 is reflective of the projected revenues, consistent with the prudent fiscal and accounting practices, and is in line with the President’s and the Board’s vision for the University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the proposed FY2026 Operating Budget request, as amended to incorporate the FY2026 Operating Budget Amendment Request #2 attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Chair Session introduced the resolution previously approved by the Joint Audit, Budget & Finance and Operations Committees.

*UDC RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 50*

**APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED FY2027 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLAN AND CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST**

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C. Official Code §38-1202.06(4), the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia (“University”) is required to prepare and submit to the Mayor, an annual budget for each fiscal year, which shall include a proposed financial operating plan for such fiscal year, and a capital and educational improvements plan for such fiscal year and the succeeding 4 fiscal years for the University; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §400.2, the President of the University shall prepare an operating budget for Educational and General activities of the University, and an operating budget for Auxiliary Enterprise operations of the University; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §400.1, the Board of Trustees shall approve all budgets for expenditures of the institutions of the University; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY2027 Operating and Capital Request was reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee of the Board;

WHEREAS, the proposed FY2027 Operating Budget and Financial Plan and the Capital Budget Request, attached hereto as Exhibit A, has been prepared by the University Administration in consultation with the University’s Chief Financial Officer, who has provided a Funding Certification for FY2027 Operating Budget and Financial Plan and Capital Budget Request, attached hereto as Exhibit B, and the President recommends its approval for submission to the Mayor by the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY2027 Operating Budget and Financial Plan and Capital Budget Request

are reflective of the projected revenues, capital allocation, consistent with prudent fiscal and accounting practices, and is in line with the President's and the Board of Trustees' vision for the University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia hereby approve the Proposed FY2027 Budget and Financial Plan, and Capital Budget Request attached hereto as Exhibit A for submission to the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

Chair Session introduced the resolutions moved to the full Board by the Operations Committee.

*UDC RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 51*

*APPOINTMENT OF ANNIE WHATLEY AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS*

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §210.1, the President is authorized to make executive appointments to designated positions in the Education Service in accordance with the provisions of 8B DCMR §§210 and 211; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §210.2, each person selected by the President for an executive appointment shall be qualified based on a description of their position or their roles and responsibilities and shall be approved by the Operations Committee; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §208.1, the Board of Trustees determines executive compensation for administrators and non-administrators at Grade Level 1A and above, upon recommendation of the President through the Operations Committee; and

WHEREAS, Annie Whatley has been recommended to serve as the Vice President for External Relations based on her knowledge, past accomplishments, and experience; and

WHEREAS, after review of her credentials, it has been determined that Annie Whatley is well qualified for such position and that the recommended salary adequately reflects the job duties and experience.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the appointment of Annie Whatley as Vice President for External Relations effective November 17, 2025, consistent with the terms and conditions of her appointment letter.

*UDC RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 52*

*APPOINTMENT OF LEKISHA JORDAN AS INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS*

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §210.2 the President is authorized to make executive appointments to designated positions in the Education Service in accordance with the provisions of 8B DCMR §§210 through 212; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §210.2, each person selected by the President for an executive appointment shall be qualified on a description of their position or their roles and responsibilities and shall be approved by the Operations Committee; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §208.1, the Board determines executive compensation for administrators and non-administrators at Grade Level 1A and above, upon recommendation of the President through the Operations Committee; and

WHEREAS, LeKisha Jordan was approved to serve as Interim Vice President for Government and Community Relations by the Board in Resolution No. 2025-27 to serve from September 22, 2025 until December 30, 2025 and;

*WHEREAS, the search for the Vice President of Government and Community Relations has not been completed, it has been determined that LeKisha Jordan should continue to serve in the interim role.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia approves the continuation of the interim appointment of LeKisha Jordan as Vice President for Government and Community Relations effective December 31, 2025, consistent with the terms and conditions of her appointment letter.*

### **Report of the Chairperson**

Chair Session reflected on his first experience attending UDC Homecoming, describing it as an incredible and memorable experience. He shared that he had the good fortune of attending nearly all of the events throughout the week and emphasized that the success of Homecoming was truly a team effort. Chair Session expressed his appreciation to everyone who participated in making the week successful and noted that he was particularly impressed with the coronation ball and the related activities.

### **President's Report**

President Edington delivered a comprehensive presentation focused on strategic plan implementation and institutional progress. Key highlights included, technology and infrastructure improvements, advancement and fundraising initiatives, and strategic priorities for the coming year.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Executive*

Joint Committee of the Budget, Audit & Finance and Operations Committee went into executive session to discuss the FY 27 budget and its impact on contracts and employees during the closed session, information was received, but no action was taken.

#### *Committee of the Whole*

No committee report.

#### *Academic and Student Affairs*

No committee report

#### *Alumni Affairs Task Force*

No committee report.

#### *Student Communication Task Force*

No committee report.

#### *Audit Budget Finance*

No committee report.

*Operations*

No committee report.

*Student Outcomes*

No committee report.

**Unfinished Business / New Business**

None.

**Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

The Chair thanked all participants and acknowledged the university's momentum and progress. A motion for adjournment was made and seconded, passing with unanimous approval. The meeting concluded at 7:49 p.m.