

Regular Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
Monday, April 21, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Trustees Present:

Ms. Anntoinette White-Richardson, chair
Dr. Esther Barazzone, trustee
Mr. Warner Session, trustee

Other Trustees Present:

Mr. Christopher Bell, trustee

Executive Cabinet Present:

Mr. David Franklin, chief operating officer
Dr. April Massey, chief academic officer
Dr. Kelly McMurray, chief of staff
Ms. Avis Russell, general counsel
Dr. Richard Lucas, chief development officer

Faculty and Staff Present:

Dr. William Hacker, associate dean of academic affairs, community college
Dr. Marilyn Hamilton, dean, community college
Ms. Janet Joiner, executive assistant
Ms. Frenika Rivers, board secretary
Dr. Bushra Ahmad Saeed, associate dean, community college

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair White-Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Ms. Joiner called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from September, November, and March of 2024. Dr. Barazzone moved the motion, and it was seconded by Trustee Session. With no objections, the minutes were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Honorary Degree Resolutions

Dr. Massey presented three candidates for honorary degrees:

1. **Gina Adams** – Executive Vice President and Counsel for FedEx, with significant contributions to corporate leadership and higher education, including service on the American University Board of Trustees and close ties to UDC through family alumni connections.

2. **Wil Haygood** – Acclaimed investigative journalist and author known for "The Butler" and a rich body of creative nonfiction. Mr. Haygood credits UDC's archives for supporting his research and has been a past lecturer and writer-in-residence at the University.
3. **C. Brian Williams** – Founder and Executive Director of Step Afrika!, recognized internationally for his work advancing the art of stepping. Mr. Williams is also a UDC commencement speaker and cultural ambassador for the District of Columbia.

The committee discussed the selection process. Dr. Massey said a more transparent nomination process is set to launch in July.

Chair White-Richardson called for a vote to approve all three honorees en bloc. The motion was made by Trustee Session and seconded by Dr. Barazzone. The resolutions were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Academic Program Resolutions

Dr. Massey presented three new programs, all housed at the Community College.

1. **Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal Studies**

Dr. Massey and Dean Hamilton described the program's relevance and career alignment. The curriculum is updated to reflect employer needs and provide a pathway to law-related bachelor's degrees. Dean Hamilton highlighted employer interest and faculty support. Dr. Hacker confirmed law school engagement during program design. The program aims to launch by Fall 2025, pending external approvals.

2. **Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice**

Dr. Hacker explained the merger of two outdated programs into a streamlined AA in Criminal Justice. The updated curriculum reflects modern industry standards and includes a reduced 60-credit requirement, improving degree completion rates, especially for MPD cadets. The program aligns with the University's BA in Administration of Justice and offers multiple career pathways.

3. **Certificate in Polysomnography**

Dr. Saeed and Dean Hamilton presented this one-year certificate in sleep science and respiratory health. It supports career advancement for respiratory therapy students and meets employer demand for certified sleep technicians. The program will complement existing degrees and position students for jobs in hospitals and healthcare settings.

A motion to approve all three program resolutions was made by Dr. Barazzone and seconded by Trustee Session. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Chair White-Richardson expressed appreciation to Dr. Massey, the deans, and faculty for their preparation and presentations. A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Session and seconded by Dr. Barazzone. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.