



Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Monday, May 6, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Trustees Present:

Mr. Warner Session, J.D., chair
Dr. Carolyn Rudd, Ed.D., vice-chair
Mr. Lamont Akins, secretary
Mr. Albert Cacoza
Mr. Michael Dannenberg, trustee
Dr. Bisi Oyedele, trustee
Dr. Tracey Jackson, Ph.D., J.D, alumni representative
Mr. Josh Lopez, alumni representative
Mr. Kiran Terrelonge, student trustee
Dr. Maurice Edington, Ph.D., President, *ex-officio*

Trustees Absent:

Mr. Ken Grossinger, MSW, treasurer
Dr. Esther Barazzone, Ph.D., trustee
Ms. Amy Laitinen, trustee
Mr. David Croom, trustee
Mr. Bernard Grayson, 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

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Session called the meeting to order at 6:07 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Carolyn Rudd (Vice-Chair)	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Ken Grossinger (Treasurer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Mr. Lamont Akins (Secretary)	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Esther Barazzone	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Mr. David Croom	<input type="checkbox"/>	x



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Trustee	Present	Absent
Dr. Michael Dannenberg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Bisi Oyedele	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Bernard Grayson	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Dr. Tracey Jackson	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Josh Lopez	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Kiran Terrelonge	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Albert Cacoza	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Amy Laitinen	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Dr. Maurice Edington (<i>ex-officio</i>)	x	

Chairman's Remarks

Chair Session made a motion to add the governance matter considered the committee the whole to the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved with a roll call vote.

Acknowledgment of Staff/Student Recognition

Chair Session recognized Mr. Chris Spencer, Business Manager, Auxiliary Services for his leadership. Mr. Spencer explained that Auxiliary Services does a little bit of everything on campus. That they are here for serve One UDC, whenever somebody service. We're here for them. So, under umbrella is the reproduction center, food service, and parking.

Chair Session asked Dr. Little-Berry to introduce Ms. Kayleah Shelton, the 2025-2026 Student Government Association President. She titled her administration as the legacy administration; establishing a permanent space for student leadership to work out all this year in the student center. She also worked to expand and strengthen the SGA structure by filling keyboards be activating the judicial branch of SGA and creating an elections committee to support and ensure fair, transparent and well organized campus elections, she led a comprehensive revision of the SGA by to create a more transparent, fair and modern student government system, she prioritized the student voice through data driven decision making, conducting multiple campus wide surveys and strong engagement to guide initiatives. She launched the UDC Care Initiative, which was a pitch competition that was she initiated the student athlete snack bar project to support the nutritional needs of



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student athletes. And that initiative that will continue with the incoming administration.

Chair Session asked Dr. Massey to introduce Dr. Tolessa Dekissa, Director of Water Resources Research Institute and Environmental Quality Testing Lab. He is responsible for driving, overseeing being accountable to the university's responsibility to do water testing for samples from across the city, driving through a certified water quality testing lab that UDC is helping the district keep its water supply safe. Dr DeKissa has also been a master researcher across a number of collaborative design projects that are bringing together researchers, collaborators from across the institution. And so, while he sits in CAUSES, he has been responsible for driving research projects that cross C's, CAS and CAUSES and the Community College. He's a valued colleague from across the institution on the faculty and staff sides, and he is just one of the nicest, most humble people that you could ever meet on this campus.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from April 20, 2026. Mr. Cacozza made a correction to the minutes. Dr. Jackson also made a correction regarding the election tally. Chair Session asked for motion to adopt the minutes as amended. It was seconded and the motion carried.

Roll call vote.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Warner Session (Chair)	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carolyn Rudd (Vice-Chair)	x	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ken Grossinger (Treasurer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lamont Akins (Secretary)	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esther Barazzone	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Croom	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Dannenberg	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bisi Oyedele	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Grayson	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tracey Jackson	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josh Lopez	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kiran Terrelonge	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Albert Cacozza	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Amy Laitinen	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- **Motion: Chair Session**
- **Second: Mr. Cacoza**

Action Items

Resolution: Approval of the Master of Social Work (MSW) Program, College of Arts & Sciences

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

Roll call vote.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Barazzone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Croom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Dannenberg	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Oyedele	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grayson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Jackson	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Lopez	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Terrelonge	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Cacoza	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Laitinen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Motion carries unanimously.



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Resolution: Executive Appointment of Dr. Lewis Johnson as Chief Research Officer and Senior Vice President for Research

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

Roll call vote.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Barazzone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Croom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Dannenberg	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Oyedele	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grayson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Jackson	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Lopez	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Terrelonge	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Cacoza	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Laitinen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution: Executive Appointment of Mr. Romie Prince as Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate Management

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



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Roll call vote.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Barazzone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Croom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Dannenberg	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Oyedele	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grayson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Jackson	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Lopez	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Terrelonge	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Cacoza	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Laitinen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution: Approval of Modification No. 1 to the Rooftop License Agreement between T-Mobile Northeast and the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia

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

Roll call vote.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Barazzone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Croom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Dannenberg	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Oyedele	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grayson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Jackson	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Lopez	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Terrelonge	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Cacozza	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Laitinen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution: Approval of Follett Bookstore Lease Agreement

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

Roll call vote.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Barazzone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Croom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Dannenberg	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Dr. Oyedele	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grayson	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Jackson	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Lopez	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Terrelonge	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Cacoza	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Laitinen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Motion carries unanimously with discussion.

Resolution: Approval of FY26 Student Housing Lease Agreements – 3003 Van Ness

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

Roll call vote.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Barazzone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Croom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Dannenberg	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Oyedele	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grayson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Jackson	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Lopez	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Terrelonge	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Cacoza	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Laitinen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Motion carries unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was introduced to adjourn by Chair Session to conduct an Executive Session to consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney client privilege. The board will not return at the conclusion of the executive session because the reason for the executive session is to receive advice from council regarding the governance matter.

Roll call vote.

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Chair Session (Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Rudd (Vice-Chair)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grossinger (Treasurer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Akins (Secretary)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Barazzone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Croom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Dannenberg	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Oyedele	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Grayson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Jackson	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Lopez	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Terrelonge	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Cacoza	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Laitinen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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- **Motion: Mr. Dannenberg**
- **Second: Mr. Akins**

The Motion carries unanimously with discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

DRAFT