The Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee held its regular quarterly meeting on January 28, 2021 via electronic connection due to the coronavirus pandemic. Chair Kidd called the meeting to order and read the required ethics statement. No conflicts were identified. Other committee members in attendance were Mr. Drummond, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Rippy.

The meeting began with review and approval of minutes from the meeting of October 15, 2020.

Chief Audit Officer Kelly Mintern then provided an overview of the work completed by the Office of Internal Audit for the quarter ending December 31, 2020. This work included an audit of UNCW Payroll, a follow-up review of Environmental Health & Safety, staff recruitment for office vacancies, and development of the Internal Audit Strategic Plan. At the end of the quarter, the Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance review and the Department of Educational Leadership consultation were in process. Progress was also made on all audit engagements with open findings, with fifteen findings closed during the quarter, and many findings moved to “in process.”

Ms. Mintern also presented a revision to the previously approved FY21 audit plan due to staffing limitations from internal audit position vacancies. The revised FY21 audit plan requested deferment of three operational reviews (Watson College of Education, Travel, and Online Course Management) and one compliance review (Americans with Disabilities Act). After the overview, presentation, and discussion of the revised plan, the committee approved the revised audit plan via a roll call vote.

The next presenter was Ms. Kristy Burnette who provided an enterprise risk management update. Ms. Burnette discussed prevailing categorical risks, which include the COVID-19 pandemic, enrollment management, human capital related items, and revenue/funding sufficiency. These risk categories are being actively managed with internal monitoring structures. She then discussed active categorical risks, and what contributed to the determination of the top active risks, which include employee engagement, free speech and expression, research, students, and technology challenges. Additional risk areas discussed were campus safety and student engagement. Mitigation plans will be identified for these risk categories and the effectiveness of those plans monitored.

The last presenter was Ms. Dana Harris who briefed the committee on the fiscal year 2020 financial audits for UNCW and its associated entities, which included the university financial statement audit by the State Auditor and audits of UNCW’s associated entities by external auditors. She then shared the audit highlights, noting that
both the State Auditor and external auditors issued unqualified opinions, with no
management letter comments or findings, and no material weaknesses in internal controls
over financial reporting.

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned.