The External Affairs committee met at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 25 with the following trustees in attendance: Dennis Burgard, Maurice Smith, Agnes Beane, Wilma Daniels, Carlton Fisher and Woody White. Chair Burgard called the meeting to order and read the required ethics statement. No conflicts were identified. The minutes from the February 7 meeting were approved as presented. Mark Lanier, assistant to the chancellor, provided a legislative update. He reviewed the legislative budget request and policy agenda. The House appropriations subcommittees have passed their recommendation up to the full Appropriations Committee chairs. The goal is to add some of the UNC budget priorities to the education section. These priorities include funding for summer school enrollment and scholarships. A recent study which was shared with the committee reported students who took 3 credit hours or more in the summer were more than 53.5% likely to graduate in 4 years. In addition to summer school funding, the carryforward and small project authority for projects of up to $1 million are also in the recommendations from the subcommittee. He reported that capital funding options are still being discussed with options such as a bond project, pay-go or a hybrid of the two. The Randall Library renovation project is in all existing finance plans. Other issues being discussed at the state level include expansion of Teaching Fellows Program, restoring master’s pay, lab school changes, fair treatment of student-athletes, ABC license for university athletic facilities and in-state tuition for military spouses. More details on these items will be discussed if the legislation passes.

Eddie Stuart, vice chancellor for university advancement, provided an update. So far this fiscal year, $20.4 million has been secured in support for the university. He also reported the Give More in 24, UNCW’s one-day giving challenge, occurred on April 9 and was another great success. The goal was to get 1,440 donors to make a gift to UNCW in 24 hours. That goal was exceeded by 453 donors. Of the 1,893 donors, 431 were students and 766 were first time donors. He also gave the committee an overview of the comprehensive campaign. The silent phase of the campaign started when Chancellor Sartarelli arrived and since then, just over $61 million has been raised. The campaign allows the university to prioritize needs and define a timeline for meeting these needs. So far, a case summary and feasibility study have been completed. A volunteer leadership structure has also been identified and a Campaign Executive Cabinet is being recruited. The public phase will start when 70% of the target has been secured which is anticipated to be fall of 2020.

Lastly, Trustee Fisher made a motion to go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award. The committee discussed the item in
closed session. Trustee Smith made a motion to go back into open session, Trustee Daniels seconded the motion. Trustee Beane made a motion to approve the recommendation as discussed in closed session. Trustee Smith seconded the motion and the full committee approved unanimously. The item will be brought before the full board in closed session.