Chair Kitchin called the meeting to order at 8:09am and then read the statement from the State Government Ethics Act. Chair Kitchin, Trustee McNeill, Trustee Burgard, Trustee White and Trustee Miller were in attendance at this meeting of the Special Committee of Military Affairs. Members of the audience included VC Stuart, Mr. Scherer from General Council, and Ashley Adamovage from the Office of Military Affairs.

The October 26, 2018 minutes were approved with no amendments.

Mr. Kawczynski began his presentation by welcoming the members of the committee and introducing the team for the Office of Military Affairs. He then asked of the trustees, if they make or have connections with members of the military community and the government or intelligence sectors, please feel free to share those connections with the OMA team so the office has the opportunity to expand the current reach and contact base.

Mr. Kawczynski discussed the 24 best practices, which influence regional, state, and national rankings, the trustees asked why we do not meet the yellow ribbon practice. Mr. Kawczynski then explained that our tuition rate is too low to meet the requirement to be a Yellow Ribbon university. This discussion then lead to marketing and what we do as an office and university to reach this community. Mr. Kawczynski then expanded on how we are allowed to market and reach these potential students, which included a discussion on “horseshoe row” and the non-compete clause in face to face offerings as opposed to online offerings of specific programs. The partnership with HOH Military Spouse Professional Network – UNCW chapter, formerly In Gear Career, was discussed in depth. This partnership allows us to keep the UNCW name on the forefront when discussing the direction of Universities and their relationships and support of the military affiliated community.

Mr. Kawczynski then presented on the currently available support services, as well as those currently under development, to military affiliated students. The office of Military Affairs is developing a partnership and starting a satellite chapter of the Braxton Bragg AUSA Organization. Members of CHHS have invited the Deputy Director of Defense Health Agency to campus to develop a partnership. There were a few student from the UNCW SVO who attended the SVA NacCon Convention 2018 in San Antonio, TX. There were four UNC System schools represented at the convention this year.
Over the last 3 years, we have increased our military affiliated students by 15% and are currently 95% of the way to our goal for 2020. We are striving to continue to grow, and potentially reach 3000 military affiliated students by 2020. About one quarter of these students are online and the other 75% are face to face, either on our main campus or in Onslow County at Coastal Carolina, Camp Lejeune or AFB New River. There was extensive discussion around what it takes, from resources to timing, to prepare programs for deployment online, if they can be developed on the carousel model, as well as the resources required to provide for their specific wants and needs in regards to their education.

Mr. Kawczynski then touched on scholarships, there are three scholarships that were deployed in the last semester. A snip of the video from our guest who performed as the halftime act of Military Appreciation basketball game. The painting will be auctioned off in a silent auction later this year.

Current awards and recognitions were briefly discussed, which included the Council of Colleges and Military Educators National award, a Military Time ranking of #1 in North Carolina and 40th nationally, and a ranking of 9th of the Best Colleges for Veterans in the South. Ashley Adamovage, Military Liaison and Program Coordinator of the Office of Military Affairs working out of AFB New River, was also recognized by the CCME and is being honored for her efforts with the South Eastern Council on Military Education (which include North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama) at the 2018 CCME National Symposium in San Diego, CA in early March 2018.

The office of Military Affairs is currently partnering with several entities to host a high profile military event which will include Montagnards, of which a large population reside in North Carolina. There will be a celebration during homecoming (2/10) for military affiliated alumni to reconnect. The military appreciation baseball game will take place in March 2018.

This concluded Mr. Kawczynski presentation.

Chair Kitchin asked the board if there were any questions, old business, or new business. Concluding that there were none, Chair Kitchin adjourned the meeting at 9:00a.m.