



# **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE NCCUAA COUNCIL**

June 27, 2026

Presiding Officer (Tiffany Parmis): Opening Remarks (including Article VI, Section 1-3 of the NCCUAA Constitution & Bylaws)

Presiding Officer: Restate the Slate of Candidates.

Presiding Officer: Present the report.

In accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws, officers are elected for a term of two years and take office on July 1 of the year elected.

The Nominations Committee conducted voting from May 1-31, 2026, via ElectionBuddy.com and mail-in ballot. The returned ballots were counted and tallied as follows:

Number of valid mail-in ballots returned: 6

Number of ballots/envelops returned invalid address: 1

Number of e-mails which bounced back: 164

Of the 6 returned paper ballots and the 504 online ballots, here is the count for each candidate:

		<b>Paper Ballots</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Total</b>
President	Nikki Davis Green	5	353	358
	Jonathan Lacewell	1	149	150
Vice President	Darwin Mills	6	489	495
Secretary	Kelli E. Davis	6	485	491
Treasurer	Dion Clark	2	187	189
	Janelle Jackson-Terry	2	291	293

Total abstentions:

	<b>Paper Ballots</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Total</b>
President		2	2
Vice President		15	15
Secretary		19	19
Treasurer	2	26	28

Presiding Officer: Madam President, the Nominating Committee submits the following candidates selected by the Body:

- For President: Nikki Davis Green
- For Vice President: Darwin Mills
- For Secretary: Kelli E. Davis
- For Treasurer: Janelle Jackson-Terry

Presiding Officer: Are there any questions?

The committee requests permission from the body to destroy the paper ballots.

I declare the 2026 Election closed and these members are elected to the leadership council for the 2026-2028 term.

The committee has worked hard, and this report further outlines activities undertaken to investigate campaign violations and details several recommendations for discussion and inclusion in the committee’s standard operating procedure.

(Upon completion, hand the written report to the President.)

Committee Investigations of Violations of Campaign Protocols

**Summary of Actions Taken Regarding Potential Campaign Protocol Violations – Jonathan Lacewell**

The Nominations Committee initiated a review following concerns that candidate Jonathan Lacewell may have engaged in campaign-related activity during chapter meetings. Zoom transcripts and recordings from multiple meetings were submitted as supporting evidence.

As part of the inquiry, the committee conducted an investigation that included:

- Requesting clarification from Mr. Lacewell regarding his attendance at chapter meetings and the nature of his participation.
- Contacting the Baltimore and Texas Chapters to verify attendance, determine whether invitations were extended, and understand the context of his engagement at those meetings.

**Response from Mr. Lacewell**

Mr. Lacewell confirmed attendance at meetings of the Nash-Edgecombe, Richmond-Petersburg, Orange County, Mid-Eastern (NCCU Alumni), Baltimore, and Hampton Roads Chapters between April 16 and May 17. He stated that he initiated contact using publicly listed chapter email addresses and that invitations were extended by chapter presidents or the individuals managing those accounts.

He reported that he did not distribute campaign materials or promote his appearances. He declined to provide copies of emails sent from his personal account, stating that the request exceeded the committee's authority.

Regarding the substance of his remarks, Mr. Lacewell described his comments as focused on his vision for strengthening the NCCU Alumni Association, including organizational structure, leadership development, membership growth, and operational improvements. He acknowledged closing his remarks by asking members to imagine the impact of their vote but stated that he did not explicitly solicit votes. He expressed willingness to meet with the committee to discuss the matter further.

**Response from the Texas Chapter**

The Texas Chapter confirmed that Mr. Lacewell is a dues-paying, active member who regularly attends monthly meetings. They stated that no special invitation or coordination occurred and that his participation was consistent with his ongoing involvement.

Members asked general questions about his candidacy, which the chapter characterized as an organic discussion rather than a campaign appearance. The chapter reported that Mr. Lacewell did not solicit support and that no actions taken during the meeting violated association guidelines.

**No response was received from the Baltimore Chapter.**

## **Committee Decision and Action**

The Committee issued a reminder email to all candidates and chapter presidents reiterating campaign protocols, prohibited activities, and potential sanctions. Nominations Committee chair received a motion which was seconded and received majority vote, to notify the voting body of the campaign violations at the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. A prior motion to remove Mr. Lacewell from the ballot was received but considered dead.

The Committee also encountered logistical challenges with Salsa Labs, the platform used to communicate with the voting body. These issues affected the timeliness of the required notification. Additionally, voters whose contact information changed during the voting period had to be emailed individually, as Salsa did not permit updates to the distribution list once voting had begun.

## **Summary of Actions Taken Regarding Potential Campaign Protocol Violations – Janelle Jackson-Terry**

The Nominations Committee was informed of a Facebook post from the Durham Chapter endorsing Ms. Jackson-Terry, but no evidence accompanied the initial report. Once the post was later provided, the Committee did not reach the required majority vote to open a formal investigation. Members cited two factors: (1) the 48-hour response period required for an investigation would have extended past the voting window, and (2) a reminder outlining campaign protocols had already been issued to all chapters after the time of the posting.

### Chapter Impartiality and Campaign Protocol Compliance Recommendations

To protect the integrity of the election process and ensure fairness for all candidates, the Nominations Committee recommends the adoption and enforcement of clear expectations for chapter conduct during campaign periods. In accordance with NCCUAA bylaws and standard nonprofit governance practices, chapters are expected to remain **strictly impartial** throughout the election cycle (Section 2.2, Campaign Protocol). Chapters may not endorse, promote, or otherwise support individual candidates in any official capacity.

To support consistent enforcement and maintain confidence in the election process, the Committee recommends the following progressive consequences for chapters that are found to violate campaign protocols following an investigation:

#### **1. First Offense: Private Written Warning & Removal of Endorsement**

A confidential written warning will be issued to the chapter president. Any improper endorsement or campaign-related material (e.g., social media posts, email blasts, etc.) must be removed immediately.

#### **2. Second Offense: Public Written Warning**

A formal public notice of violation will be shared with the voting body. This step ensures transparency and reinforces the expectation of impartiality.

#### **3. Third Offense: Sanctions (Fine or Removal from Position)**

For repeated or willful violations, the Committee recommends:

- a monetary fine (not to exceed \$1,000),
- temporary suspension of chapter privileges (e.g., decline to accept nominations from violating chapter), or
- removal of the responsible officer(s) from their position.

These measures are intended to protect the credibility of the election process and uphold the Association's standards.

#### Guiding Principles for Enforcement

To ensure fairness and consistency, the Committee further recommends that all enforcement actions adhere to the following principles:

- Consequences WILL be clearly stated in advance so chapters understand expectations and potential outcomes.
- All chapters WILL be treated consistently, with no exceptions or preferential treatment.

- Due process WILL be provided, including written notice of the alleged violation and an opportunity for the chapter to respond.
- Sanctions WILL be proportional to the severity and frequency of the violation.

Recommendations for Committee Composition, Succession Planning, and Clarification

1. Parliamentary Alignment & Oversight

- Recommend requesting NCCUAA Parliamentarian or an individual trained in/familiar with *Robert's Rules of Order* to the nominations committee to emphasize impartiality and clarity in election processes.
- Their role:
  - Ensure nomination and election processes follow parliamentary procedure.
  - Advise on handling incumbents running for re-election.
  - Provide guidance on motions, points of order, and procedural fairness.

2. Succession Planning Toolkit

A toolkit reduces reliance on incumbents, emphasizes continuity and orderly transfer of duties, and prevents perceived conflicts of interest when candidates are running for re-election. A toolkit further prevents bottlenecks and increases transparency. While the elections website provides the NCCUAA bylaws and standard operating procedures, additional helpful information includes:

- Role descriptions and key responsibilities.
  - Shared inbox management
    - Who responds to “ballot not received” inquiries
    - Who monitors for candidate questions
    - Who handles procedural challenges or concerns
    - Expected response times
    - Escalation paths for sensitive issues
- Checklist of required handoff materials (credentials, documents, access keys).
- Specify budget, if one exists (particularly for mailing paper ballots)
- Contact directory
  - Website updates
  - Membership roster updates

- Election platform setup and payment remittance (e.g., ElectionBuddy)
- Documentation templates for reports, announcements, and ballots.
- Guidance on impartiality when requesting information from incumbents who are running again.
- Define who should have access to, who maintains permissions list for, and security expectations of:
  - ElectionBuddy
  - Shared inboxes
  - Document repositories (e.g., bylaws, past reports, templates)
  - Voting records

### 3. Documented Courtesies & Established Practices

This helps maintain decorum and goodwill, and ensures they are applied consistently. Document courtesies previously extended, such as:

- Calls with candidates before results are announced
  - Committee further recommends obtaining candidate phone numbers as emails from shared inbox may go to spam/junk folders
- Thank-you messages to nominees/candidates
- Timeline for counting paper ballot received has been called “excessive” previously and may be worth revisiting
- Debrief conversations with outgoing officers, if applicable

### 4. Templates & Examples Previously Accepted Documents

This will help future committees maintain consistency and reduce ambiguity.

Include:

- Past committee reports accepted by the leadership council
- Sample candidate questionnaires
- Sample announcement scripts
- Sample transition checklists

Submitted by: Tiffany Parmis (Chair), Talika Buster, Tito Koonce, LaMisa McCoy (University Representative), Pamela McPhail-Evans, Phyllis Thompson, Tasha Toy (Ex-Officio)

With gratitude to Shauna Dozier and Dennis Scott Jr.