Individuals who will serve out the terms of Donna Winbon and Rebecca Schlosser and will hold a 1-year appointment:

Sarah Nuñez is the Assistant Director for Cultural Center’s Hispanic and Latino Initiatives at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. As a Latina professional she brings people, teams, and cultures together. Born in Bogota, Colombia and raised in North Carolina, Sarah’s multicultural background as a Colombian-American enables her to effectively act as a bridge between identities, cultures, races, and languages. Sarah has 15 years of experience in working with nonprofits and higher education as a facilitator, coach, and strategic thinker.

Sarah also holds a Master of Public Affairs from Western Carolina University (2010) and a certificate in Non-Profit Management from Duke University. She considers Western North Carolina as her home and is proud to be a product of the institutions of higher learning in the region having also completed her Bachelor of Arts with major in Interdisciplinary Studies: Latin America in a Global Context from University of North Carolina at Asheville (2004) and Associate of Arts from Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College (2002).

Romie Patel is a financial advisor through Prudential Financial. As a part of his personal advising and insurance practice, Romie works with professionals and business owners to manage their investments, insurance policies, and retirement income. A native of North Carolina, he has multiple offices across the state and recently relocated to Florida to open a private office there. Romie works with professionals of various backgrounds and is honored to work with a large contingent of college and university professionals including at WCU.

Prior to this, Romie graduated in 2011 with a B.S.B.A in Business Administration and Law and a minor in Leadership. He went on to serve as the Assistant Director of Admissions at WCU where he was honored with the New Student Affairs Professional Award in 2013. As a student of WCU, Romie was very involved in campus activities and a member of diverse organizations stemming from the Department of Student Community Ethics, Greek Life and Orientation Programs. Now in his free time, Romie enjoys golfing and spending time with his girlfriend, family and friends.
Individuals being elected as part of the class of 2016 and will hold 3-year appointments:

Terry M. Fortner is a 1977 graduate of Western Carolina University, BSBA Business Administration. He also completed executive studies at The University of Minnesota-Carlson School of Management. Terry has multiple years of business management experience. He spent thirty two years at Nationwide Insurance retiring in 2009 as Vice President of Claims. Later in 2009, he joined LKQ Corporation, a publically traded international auto parts distribution company. His current executive role at LKQ Corporation is Vice President-Corporate Sales leading multiple business units throughout North America.

His passion for Western Carolina University runs deep as he has been involved with the Catamount Club since the late seventies. He currently is a board member of the Catamount Club. Additionally he has been involved with many civic and not for profit organizations including the Ronald McDonald House (Board Member and Treasurer), Collision Repair Education Foundation (Chairman) and his local church.

Terry and his wife Vikki are native North Carolinians, Bryson City and Murphy. Currently they reside in Dahlonega, GA.

Jackie Grant, a 1992 graduate of Western Carolina University, is a partner and litigator at Roberts & Stevens where she successfully represents individuals, businesses and organizations in a broad range of areas including civil litigation, complex personal injury, employment litigation and professional liability litigation at the trial and appellate levels in both North Carolina State and U.S. Federal Courts. Jackie was a distinguished member of the NC Bar Association Board of Governors from 2010-2013 and served as President of the 28th Judicial District (Buncombe Co.) Bar Association from 2014-2015. She has been recognized as a NC Super Lawyer since 2011 and was elected to Business North Carolina magazine’s Legal Elite for Employment Law in 2013 and 2016.

An Asheville native, Jackie is a community advocate who has served on the boards of several local organizations including the YWCA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of WNC and the City of Asheville Sustainable Economic Development Task Force. Professionally, she is an active member of the NC Association of Defense Attorneys, Defense Research Institute, NC Association of Women Attorneys, and NC Bar Association Litigation Council.
Keyonna Hornbuckle currently works as the Tribal Liaison for the Tribal Casino Gaming Enterprise Board of Advisors and has worked for Harrah’s Cherokee Resort for 5 years. Keyonna works closely with the tribal enrolled members, employed at the Resort, as a liaison between the employees and TCGE Board. In addition, she volunteers time working with youth as a coach and Community Coordinator for a non-profit organization, Healthy Kids Running Series. Keyonna serves on the Pageant Board and is a graduate of the Right Path Leadership program.

Keyonna received a BS in Exercise and Sports Science from Oklahoma Baptist University, where she was also a student-athlete. She has completed hours towards a MS in Kinesiology at both California Polytechnic State University and Western Carolina University. Keyonna currently lives in Cherokee, NC with her partner, James, and three children. When she is not wrapped up with kid’s activities, she enjoys being active, crafting, and spending quality time with family and friends.

Barbara Hyde lives in Sapphire, NC. She graduated from Texas Technological University with a BBA degree, majoring in business Education. She was a legal secretary to the Counselor of the Governor of Louisiana. She was a substitute teacher for elementary, middle school and high school in Mobile, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia for six years. While working for a children’s wear company at the shows at the Atlanta Merchandise Mart for 15 years, she also traveled for the company. She worked for Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce. She also has been on various committees at Cashiers United Church and the Country Club of Sapphire Valley since moving to the Cashiers area in 2005.

She has been married to her husband, Carl Hyde for 53 years (1963). Barbara and Carl have two married sons who are in the medical sales field. They have four grandchildren.
Fran Johnson is retired and is the incoming president of LIFE@WCU. She lives in Mills River, NC. She was the Director of Hospitality/Senior Business Development Executive for the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce in Charleston SC from 2006-2013. Her professional background includes Senior Corporate Group Sales Manager for Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel and Conference Center in King of Prussia, PA and the Corporate Account Manager for World Travel, Inc. in Douglasville, PA. Fran is married to Tony Johnson, a WCU alumnus and current member of the WCU Alumni Board.

John S. Martin is senior vice president and financial advisor at CAPTRUST where he is responsible for providing retirement plan advisory services to corporate fiduciaries. Prior to joining CAPTRUST, John served as financial advisor at Smith Barney specializing in business development and client account management, and has worked in the industry since 1991.

John is certified as an Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF®) by the Center for Fiduciary Studies in association with the University Of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Law from Western Carolina University, where he was a four-year letterman and Team Captain of the football team. John serves on the Board of Directors of StepUp Ministry and the Advisory Board of Band Together.

Clay Poindexter is the founder and President/General Manager of VERSA Technologies, Inc. Clay has worked in the telecommunications industry for more than 31 years and is responsible for the company’s overall strategic business plan and growth. Clay first started in the industry, in 1985, as a founding partner of Tri-Com Communications in Winston-Salem. In 1997, Clay became President of Tri-Com eventually growing the company to one of the largest business communications companies in the nation. Upon the acquisition of Tri-Com in 1999 by publicly traded
Inter-Tel Technologies, Clay became the General Manager for the North Carolina operations with offices in Winston-Salem, NC and Charlotte, NC.

Clay is a Winston-Salem native, and holds a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Business Marketing from Western Carolina University. Clay was named “Entrepreneur of the Year” in 1997 by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, one of the “Forty Leaders Under 40” in 1998 by the Greensboro Jaycees, and recognized by Business Leader Magazine as one of the “Top 50 Entrepreneurs of 2010”. Clay has served as a board member for the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, New Philadelphia Moravian Church Board of Trustees, and the Winston-Salem Sales and Marketing Executives. Clay stays active in the community by supporting many local non-profit organizations in our area, volunteering time to Ronald Reagan High School Athletics and supporting Western Carolina University athletics. In his down time, Clay enjoys boating, fishing, hunting, golf, camping and spending time with his wife and two children.

Bob Roberts is the Regional Executive Vice President for First Citizens Bank & Trust Co. He has 31 years’ experience in the banking and financial business. He is very active in several community organizations. He currently is the chairman of the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority and immediate past chairman of the Mission Healthcare System. Mr. Roberts is on the board of directors of several other organizations: Better Business Bureau; Eblen Charities; Mission Health Partners and the Community Betterment Foundation. He has been active with the YMCA of Western North Carolina, serving as chairman of the board from 2009-2011; United Way of Asheville/Buncombe County and participated as past chairman of their annual campaign and is a Peak Society member. He is a past chairman of the Economic Development Coalition for Asheville and Buncombe County. He participates in the Asheville Chapter of the University of North Carolina Education Foundation, is a member of Central United Methodist Church and serves on the finance committee. Mr. Roberts graduated from North Buncombe High School in 1979. After high school, he attended UNC-Chapel Hill, graduating in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Relations and Psychology. He and his wife, Carol, have three children.

Jeff Tomberlin is a 1981 graduate with a BS in Political Science/Economics. Employed by Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station as a Program Manager for a Production Operating system that manages the Assembly, Disassembly,
Reassembly and contract delivery for the Navy’s Fleet Ballistic Missile Trident Program. This operating system also interfaces with an active SAP application. Married to Miriam Tomberlin and has two daughters. Jeff’s Father Hugh was a Distinguished Alumni awardee in 1967. Jeff is an active member in the Big Cat club and the alumni association of Kappa Alpha Order.

Ann Treadaway lives in Clemmons, NC. She is the Director of Sales & Innovations at Essentra, previously Filtrona. She has been employed at Essentra since September 1996. She was a Product Manager, Chemist III at RJ Reynolds for 8 years. She is a WCU Alumna with a Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry. She graduated with masters from Wake Forest University Babcock Graduate School of Management, currently known as the Wake Forest University School of Business.