TO: Faculty, Staff, and Students of Appalachian State University

FROM: Paul Meggett, General Counsel

DATE: September 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Change to Certification Requirement of Absentee Ballots for 2020 General Election

Please print and post this memorandum for individuals in your unit who do not have regular access to e-mail.

On June 11, 2020, the North Carolina General Assembly passed Session Law 2020-17 House Bill 1169 An Act to Make Various Changes to the Laws Related to Elections and to Appropriate Funds to the State Board of Elections in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. This new temporary law changes the signature requirements of Absentee Ballots only for the November 3, 2020, General Election. Generally, the certificate on the back of the Absentee Ballot envelope requires either the signatures of two (2) witnesses or the signature of a Notary Public; however, Session Law 2020-17 now permits the signature of only one witness, who is at least 18 years of age or older. The signature of a Notary Public is not required. Again, this is only for the November 3rd election and the general absentee ballot witness requirements will apply once more for any elections in 2021.

The North Carolina Secretary of State’s Office published a short, informative video regarding the Certificate of Absentee Ballots. Additional information about voting procedures can be found at the North Carolina State Board of Elections’ website located at https://www.ncsbe.gov/.