

**MINUTES OF THE  
GASTON COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Myers Center Board Room  
September 24, 2012**

**Members Present:** Mr. Stephen Campbell, Chair  
Mr. Ron Hovis  
Mr. Tom Keigher  
Ms. Ann Neal  
Mr. Jim Ragan, Vice Chair  
Mr. Ray Ratchford  
Ms. Patricia Rudisill  
Mr. James Smith, Secretary  
Mr. Randy Vinson  
Dr. Jim Watson

Dr. Patricia Skinner, President

**Members Absent:** Sheriff Alan Cloninger  
Mr. Duane McCallister  
Ms. Rhonda McLean  
Mr. Bill Sudyk  
Ms. Brittani Manning, SGA President

**Others Present:** Ms. Julia Allen, Dr. Don Ammons, Mr. Todd Baney, Mr. Brent Boone, Ms. Rikki Bradley, Ms. Jessica Daniels, Ms. Mary Ellen Dillon, Ms. Lauren Dixon, Ms. Sylvia Dixon, Ms. Adele Earls, Mr. Charles Gardner, Dr. Linda Greer, Mr. Mitchell Grice, Ms. Megan Hibberts, Mr. Mark Hollar, Ms. Tiffne Huffstetler, Dr. Silvia Patricia Husain, Dr. Joe Keith, Ms. Cynthia McCrory, Mr. Reeves McGlohon, Ms. Stephanie Michael-Pickett, Dr. Lory Morrow, Ms. Patrice Nixon, Ms. Peggy Oates, Ms. Kimberly Pace, Mr. Russell Paul, Ms. Talyah Regusters, Mr. Donnie Rippy, Ms. Victoria Terry, Ms. Kelli Waldrop, Ms. Kay Walker, Ms. Amy Weisgerber, Officer Jimmy West, Ms. Susan Whittimore, Ms. Kirby Widener, Ms. Tanisha Williams, Ms. Kimberly Wyont, Ms. Shelia Wyont, and Mr. Carl Stewart, College Attorney.

- **Board Chair Stephen Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and declared a quorum present.**

- **Invocation – Mr. Hovis**
- **Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder**

Mr. Campbell reminded Trustees of the ethical requirements for those who serve as public servants and requested they identify any conflicts of interest present. None were identified.

#### **A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Upon a motion by Mr. Hovis, second by Ms. Neal, the Agenda was approved as presented.**

#### **B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 27, 2012, BOARD MEETING**

**Upon a motion by Mr. Vinson, second by Mr. Hovis, the Minutes from the August 27, 2012, Board Meeting were approved as submitted.**

#### **C. INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Skinner welcomed Ms. Susan Whittemore, Faculty Senate President and Ms. Adele Earls, President of Staff Senate to the meeting. Dr. Skinner recognized Mr. Reeves McGlohon, Superintendent of Gaston County Schools, along with the staff and students from the Gaston Early College High School.

##### **1. Introduction of New Employee**

Dr. Ammons introduced Ms. Kimberly Pace, Instructor of English.

##### **2. Presentation – Gaston Early College High School**

Ms. Kimberly Wyont, Director of Educational Partnerships, gave a presentation on the Gaston Early College High School (GECHS), a partnership between Gaston College and Gaston County Schools. In summary, her presentation included the following:

Early colleges are high schools that offer students the opportunity to simultaneously pursue a high school diploma and earn up to two years of tuition-free college credits. Early College High Schools (ECHS) are located on the campuses of two and four-year colleges and universities and are designed to serve 250-400 students, with small, personalized learning environments.

A cross-section of Gaston County School students in grades 9-13 (maximum of 50 per grade level), who reflect the population and diversity of Gaston County are selected by an application and lottery process. The process, conducted by the Gaston County Schools, is a fair and equitable procedure regardless of any religion, political influence, or relationship with Gaston County Schools or Gaston College.

The GECHS will be housed on the Dallas Campus of Gaston College in the renovated and expanded Lena Sue Beam Building. Typically, early colleges open with 9<sup>th</sup> grade only and build each year until grades 9-13. However, because of special circumstances, GECHS opened with 120 students that included forty-eight 9<sup>th</sup> graders, sixty 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, and twelve 13<sup>th</sup> year students.

Ms. Wyont introduced Mr. McGlohon and members of his administrative staff, along with Ms. Shelia Wyont, principal of GECHS, teachers, counselor, and other administrative members who make up the GECHS staff. Five students gave positive comments about their experiences so far at the GECHS.

Mr. McGlohon commended the Gaston College Board of Trustees for being receptive to new ideas and their good leadership. He also thanked Dr. Skinner and her staff for their efforts and collaboration with Gaston County Schools in establishing the Gaston Early College High School.

Ms. Wyont distributed packets of information to Trustees that included a copy of her presentation, Gaston Early College High School brochure, and an Early College High School Associate of Arts Degree Curriculum Schedule. A copy of her presentation is included with the Board Minutes on file in the President's Office.

#### **D. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Skinner reported on the following grants that the College has recently received.

EMS – \$120,000 grant from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. The grant will be used to revise and strengthen the EMS curriculum standard and courses, incorporate employer input into the development and redesign of courses, and restructure the overall framework for EMS training.

Minority Male Mentoring Program – The College will receive \$24,656 for the 2012-13 academic year. Funding will provide for the persistence, graduation, and transfer rates of minority male students.

Family Literary Program – The State Board of Community Colleges approved an allocation of \$10,926 for the Family Literary Program of Gaston College. The purpose of this project is to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by improving the educational opportunities of low-skilled families by integrating adult basic education, parenting education, and children’s education into a unified family literacy program.

Dr. Skinner updated the Board on the preparations for the Student Success Summit that will be held October 30, 2012, at the Gastonia Conference Center. College data and statistics will be discussed in break-out sessions with a focus on achievement gaps and issues that hamper a student’s ability to obtain a credential or complete their education.

All 58 community colleges in North Carolina will observe the NC Community College System’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April 2013, by choosing a “signature event”. Gaston College has chosen *Textures and Tones*, a celebration of music, art, dance, drama, and literature. The event is planned for the week of April 15-20, 2013, on all three campuses. The official kick-off for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be held on October 7, 2012.

Dr. Skinner included in her report a list of meetings she attended since the last Board Meeting of August 27, 2012.

The full report is included with the Board Minutes and filed in the President’s Office.

## **E. SGA PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

The SGA, along with the Veterans Student Activities Specialist, Darren Stewart, held a September 11<sup>th</sup> Tribute in remembrance of those who perished during the 9/11 attacks. A candle light vigil was held during the evening hours. Approximately fifty faculty, staff, and students attended.

A pizza social was held for approximately 200 evening students at the Dallas Campus on September 12, 2012. Pizza socials are planned for the Lincoln Campus on October 3 and the Kimbrell Campus on November 12.

The SGA assisted with the Community Blood Center Blood Drive held on the Dallas Campus, September 19-20, 2012. Donation results will be available at the November Board Meeting.

Movie on the Lawn, a first-time event sponsored by the SGA, was held September 25, 2012, at 8:15 p.m. on the South Quad of the Dallas Campus. The feature movie

was *Hunger Games*. Free popcorn and drinks were available. The event was open to all Gaston College faculty, staff, students, and their guests.

Ms. Manning, SGA President, was not present at the Board meeting due to illness, but submitted a written report to the Board prior to the meeting. The report is recorded with the Board Minutes and filed in the President's Office.

## **F. FACILITIES**

The following agenda item required no action and was presented to the Board for information. Ms. McCrory presented a visual update of the projects.

### **1. Capital Reports**

#### Boiler Building Project

The Boiler project is progressing well and is almost complete. The anticipated completion date is October 31, 2012.

#### Lena Sue Beam

The project is at the mechanical inspection stage. A review by the Mechanical Inspection staff at the county level was recently done, but a report has not been issued. October 3 is set as the state final inspection date. Punch items are being completed.

Mr. Ragan expressed his appreciation to Dr. Skinner and staff for their trips to various centers in an effort to determine the right plan for the College's Center of Advanced Manufacturing.

Mr. Donny Hicks, Director of the Gaston County Economic Development Commission, has been the liaison between the College and the manufacturing community. Input from local industries will dictate the space, facilities, training, equipment, and possibly funding assistance for the Center.

## **G. FINANCE**

The following agenda items required no action and were presented to the Board for information.

### **1. Supplemental Budget Allocation**

Two supplemental state budget allocations were received after the FY 2012-13 State Budget was finalized. The Minority Male Mentoring Program of \$25,656,

and Customized Training allocations for Sabo, Aptar, Conitex, and Pharr Yarns in the amount of \$15,743, for a total of \$41,399.

## 2. FY 2012-13 County Capital Project Budget

The College requested \$1,065,000 in capital funding from Gaston County for FY 2012-13. The County approved a \$453,219 capital budget in the June 14, 2012, work session. The College's County Capital Priority Projects include the following:

• Rehab of Myers elevator	\$ 60,000
• Convert sunken seating area in Myers Center Cafeteria to one level	\$ 25,000
• Replace Deaerator Tank – main boiler house and repair underground steam leaks	\$ 50,000
• Renovation of former Testing Center in Myers Center to office space	\$120,000
• Update building automation controls in Rauch Bldg. and Morris Library	\$100,000
• Identified energy conservation work–priority items TBD	\$ 25,000
• Reserve for Maintenance	<u>\$ 73,219</u>
<b>County Capital Total FY 2012-13</b>	<b>\$453,219</b>

## 3. Financial Reports

Ms. McCrory reviewed the year-to-date financial reports as of August 31, 2012, which included State, Gaston and Lincoln County's operating budgets, and college proprietary accounts in comparison to previous year.

## H. REPORT FROM NCACCT

The NCACCT, particularly the Executive Board, have been addressing the issues concerning the salary schedules of community college presidents. At the September 2012 Association meeting, a resolution was passed requesting that the present salary schedule be replaced with a less complicated one. The resolution will go to the State Board of Community Colleges at its next meeting.

Mr. Vinson presented facts on the upcoming legislative tenure in regard to the number of new legislators coming to office and the number of legislators who are only in their second term. This could ultimately result in significant changes in future state operations.

The Trustees Association, in conjunction with the President's Association and staff, has led a strong charge in terms of funding for the community colleges, and has been very successful in increasing dollars. However, the community colleges are still in competition for funding with universities and local secondary school systems that have very powerful lobbying groups in Raleigh. The Association, along with Boards of Trustees at the 58 community colleges in North Carolina, has also been very powerful in their lobbying efforts, but unfortunately community colleges are still falling behind financially.

A pact has been formed called "Friends of Community Colleges" for the purpose of enabling individuals to contribute to the pact, which supports local legislators favorable to this cause. Trustees, Foundation Board members, senior college leadership, and interested business community leaders, will be asked to be a part of this political action group with their contributions. Mr. Vinson asked that trustees stay a few minutes after the Board meeting to learn more about "Friends of Community Colleges".

## **I. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The 2012 NCACCT Fall Leadership Conference was held September 5-7 in Asheville, NC. Trustees attending were Steve Campbell, Tom Keigher, Duane McCallister, James Smith, and Randy Vinson. Dr. Skinner was also in attendance. Chair Campbell extended his appreciation for the Board's representation.

### **1. Committee Assignments**

Chair Campbell called the Board's attention to the list of Committee Assignments for 2012-13 that was distributed at the meeting. Mr. Jim Ragan, Vice Chair, will chair the Facilities Committee; Mr. James Smith, Secretary, will chair the Finance Committee; and Ms. Ann Neal, will chair the Campus Affairs Committee.

## **J. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Campbell reminded the Board there will be no Board or Committee meetings in October. Other events, meetings, and reminders were mentioned.

- Firearms Training Facility Dedication and Open House – October 4, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Gaston College Firearms Training Facility
- ACCT Annual Congress – October 10-13 – Boston, MA
- Katherine Harper Testing Center Open House – October 25 – 3:00 p.m.
- Student Success Summit – October 30, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m., Gastonia Conference Center

- **Finance and Facilities Committee meeting – November 5, 3:00 p.m., MC Board Room**
- **Board Meeting – November 12, 4:00 p.m. – MC Board Room**

**K. ADJORNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Campbell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Upon a motion by Mr. Watson, second by Mr. Ratchford, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**James C. Smith, Secretary**

**Stephen D. Campbell, Chair**

**Sylvia Dixon, Recording Secretary**

**(College Seal)**