

**Minutes of the
Gaston College
Board of Trustees Called Meeting**

**February 6, 2015
Gaston Country Club**

Members Present: Mr. Steve Campbell
Mr. John Dancoff
Ms. Jennifer Davis
Mr. Ron Hovis
Mr. Brett Keeter
Mr. Tom Keigher
Mr. Jim Ragan
Ms. May Gray Robinson
Mr. James Smith, Chair
Mr. Randy Vinson
Dr. Jim Watson, Vice Chair
Ms. LaTonya Ross, SGA President

Members Absent: Sheriff Alan Cloninger
Ms. Rhonda McLean
Ms. Patricia Rudisill, Secretary

Dr. Patricia Skinner

Others Present: Ms. Julia Allen, Dr. Don Ammons, Mr. Todd Baney, Ms. Mary Ellen Dillon, Ms. Lynda Ellington, Mr. Travis Hogue, Dr. Joe Keith, Dr. Silvia Patricia Rios Husain, Ms. Cynthia McCrory; Mr. Carl Stewart, College Attorney.

- **Board Chair James Smith called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and declared a quorum present.**
- **Invocation - Mr. Keeter**
- **Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder**

Mr. Smith reminded Trustees of the ethics requirements of public servants and also requested they identify any conflicts of interest or appearance of conflicts of interest present. None were identified.

A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Smith asked if there were any changes, additions, or corrections to the agenda. None were identified. The agenda was approved as distributed.

B. FINANCE

1. Financial Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2014

Cherry Bekaert conducted a financial audit of Gaston College for the year ended June 30, 2014. The audit resulted in an unmodified opinion with no recommendations. Representatives of Cherry Bekaert met with the Finance Committee on February 5, 2015, to review the audit results. It was noted that the numbers were balanced down to the penny which is a state requirement. Controller Bruce Cole and his staff, and also, Technology Director Savonne McNeill and her staff, were commended for their excellent work. This audit report was presented to the Board as a matter of information.

2. FY 2015-16 Lincoln County Operating Budget

The Lincoln County Manager's Office has requested that the College submit its County budget in February. Capital expense and maintenance of the Lincoln Campus are budgeted by the County. The budget approved for the College by Lincoln County for FY 2014-15 was \$150,000 for operating expenses and \$30,000 for capital.

The FY 2015-16 operating budget request reflects a \$46,732 increase over the FY 2014-15 approved budget. During FY 2014-15, the County approved the first operating budget increase for the campus since FY 2009-10. The \$11,200 increase covered most of the accumulated costs related to rising health insurance and retirement benefit costs.

The FY 2015-16 immediate operating needs for the Lincoln Campus include the request to fund the balance of a full-time police officer and a part-time receptionist. The police officer position, which has been funded with non-recurring state funds, is critical to the safe operation of the campus, particularly in light of security concerns in educational institutions across the country. This request has not been fully funded in the prior county budget requests. The funding for a part-time receptionist will fill the vacancy created when the position was eliminated from the county budget in FY 2011-12.

N.C. statutes require the tax-levying authority of each institution provide adequate funds to meet the financial needs of the institution for capital, plant operations and maintenance, campus police and security, and support services. (GS. 115D-32)

Capital needs continue to be identified that cannot be met with the current \$30,000 capital allotment.

The FY 2015-16 Lincoln County Operating Budget request reflects an increase of \$46,732 from the approved budget of \$150,000 for FY 2014-15, for a total budget request of \$196,732 and a capital budget request of \$50,000.

Upon a recommendation by the Finance Committee, Mr. Campbell moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the FY 2015-16 Lincoln County Operating Budget of \$196,732 and a capital budget request of \$50,000. The motion carried.

C. FACILITIES

1. Purchase of Property Adjacent to Gaston College Dallas Campus

The property, 204 College View Drive, abuts the upper portion of parking lot D north of the Craig Building on the Dallas Campus (map attached). College View Drive is accessed from the Dallas-Cherryville Highway where the Jack in the Box and Dairy Queen restaurants are located. The property is owned by former College employee, Judy Yates, who is retired and now in ill health. Judy's daughter, Julie Williams, is selling the property to help pay for her mother's care.

The family approached the College years ago about purchasing the property at a much higher price. The College was not interested at that time.

The property is zoned mixed residential/commercial and has a 2013 tax value of \$89,979, which is the proposed purchase price. The lot size is .52 acres and contains a 1,657 square-foot house built in 1954 which the College plans to demolish to provide additional parking for the Dallas Campus. The land is primarily flat and will possibly accommodate 78 parking spaces. Dr. Skinner thanked Attorney Carl Stewart for negotiating the purchase with Ms. Williams. Excess lab fees can be utilized to purchase the property.

Upon a recommendation from the Facilities Committee, Dr. Watson moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve purchasing the Yates property for the purchase price of \$89,979 plus closing costs. The motion carried.

D. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Appointment of New Foundation Board Members

Pending Board of Trustees approval, Mr. Chad Melvin and Mr. Brenard Dalton have agreed to serve on the Gaston College Foundation Board. Mr. Melvin is completing the unexpired term of Ms. Barbara Myers, which will expire June 30, 2016. Mr. Dalton will serve July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2018, a three-year term. Chair Smith relayed to the Board a short biography on each candidate which included a mention of their service contributions to the community.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hovis, second by Mr. Keigher, the Gaston College Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Mr. Chad Melvin and Mr. Brenard Dalton to serve on the Gaston College Foundation Board of Directors. The motion carried.

2. Announcements

- Mr. Smith reminded Board members that registration of the NCACCT 2015 Law/Legislative Seminar, in Raleigh is now open. The dates are April 8-10, 2015; the location is the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel; and Mary Ellen would be glad to register them and arrange their accommodations.
- The next Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting will be March 16, at 3:00 p.m., in the Myers Center Board Room.
- The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be March 23, at 4:00 p.m., in the Myers Center Board Room.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Trustees, Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Rudisill, Secretary

James Smith, Chairman

Mary Ellen Dillon, Assistant Recording Secretary

(College Seal)