

**Minutes of the
Gaston College
Board of Trustees Meeting
Myers Center Board Room
March 23, 2015**

Members Present: Mr. Stephen Campbell
Sheriff Alan Cloninger
Mr. John Dancoff
Mr. Brett Keeter
Mr. Tom Keigher
Mr. Jim Ragan
Ms. May Gray Robinson
Ms. Patricia Rudisill, Secretary
Mr. James Smith, Chair
Mr. Randy Vinson
Dr. Jim Watson, Vice Chair
Ms. LaTonya Ross, SGA President

Dr. Patricia Skinner, President

Members Absent: Ms. Jennifer Davis
Mr. Ron Hovis
Ms. Rhonda McLean

Others Present: Ms. Julia Allen, Mr. Todd Baney, Mr. Derek Barrett, Ms. Tiffani Bowser, Ms. Apriale Clark, Ms. Jamie Clary, Dean Virgil Cox, Mr. Josh Crisp, Mr. J. A. Dalpiaz, Ms. Carol Denton, Ms. Mary Ellen Dillon, Ms. Lynda Ellington, Mr. Travis Hogue, Ms. Emily Houser, Ms. Renita Johnson, Ms. Crystal Jones, Dr. Joe Keith, Mr. John and Dr. Malinda Lowery, Ms. Cynthia McCrory, Dr. Dennis McElhoe, Ms. Stephanie Michael Pickett, Mr. Rama Olson, Dr. Silvia Patricia Rios Husain, Ms. Rhonda Segars, Mr. Mike and Mrs. Sherry Stacey; and Mr. Carl Stewart, College Attorney.

- **Board Chair James Smith called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and declared a quorum present.**
- **Invocation – Mr. James Ragan**
- **Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder**

Chair 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. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 17, 2014, BOARD MEETING.

Chair Smith presented the Minutes of the November 17, 2014, Board Meeting, and asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Chair Smith declared the Board Minutes of November 17, 2014, approved as distributed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 6, 2015, CALLED BOARD MEETING.

Chair Smith presented the Minutes of the February 6, 2015, Called Board Meeting, and asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Chair Smith declared the Board Minutes of February 6, 2015, Called Board Meeting approved as distributed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 6, 2015, BOARD RETREAT.

Chair Smith presented the Minutes of the February 6, 2015, Board Retreat, and asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Chair Smith declared the Board Minutes of February 6, 2015, Board Retreat approved as distributed.

C. INTRODUCTIONS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- 1. Dr. Skinner welcomed Mr. Josh Crisp, Staff Senate President, and Mr. Mike and Mrs. Sherry Stacey to the meeting.**

Dr. Skinner introduced:

Ms. Tiffani Bowser, Safety/Human Resources Coordinator

Dr. Skinner introduced the following for Dr. Ammons:

Mr. Derek Barrett, Instructor-Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration

Ms. Apriale Clark, Institutional Research Coordinator

Ms. Jamie Clary, Instructor/Program Coordinator-Human Services Technology

Mr. Rama Olson, Instructor-Computer Engineering/Electronic Engineering Technology

Ms. Rhonda Segars, Instructor-Accounting

Ms. McCrory introduced:

Ms. Crystal Jones, Accounts Receivable Specialist

2. Recognition of Mr. James Edward Stowe

The following resolution was presented for adoption recognizing the immeasurable contributions to the community, and specifically to Gaston College, by Mr. James Edward Stowe.

**Gaston College Board of Trustees
Resolution
Honoring the Distinguished Service of Mr. James Edward Stowe**

WHEREAS, Mr. Stowe is considered one of the “founders” of Gaston College and was instrumental in helping to create the vision for the College; and

WHEREAS, he served as a member of the Gaston College Board Trustees for 18 years from 1963 to 1981 and served as Vice Chair for 3 years and Chair for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, due to his visionary leadership during the founding of the College, Gaston College has become a model of excellence in higher education serving the citizens of Gaston and Lincoln counties; and

WHEREAS, he played an important role in the College’s initial regional accreditation in November of 1967 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his substantial contributions to Gaston College, Mr. Stowe also served in the United States Navy, was a former Chair for the United Way of Gaston County, and served as the President for numerous organizations including the Gaston County Chamber of Commerce; the Western Carolina Center Foundation for Handicapped Children; the Gastonia Optimist Club; and the North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees; and

WHEREAS, he served as the Chair of the Gaston County Hospital Study Committee, which ultimately led to the construction of the CaroMont Regional Medical Center, formerly Gaston Memorial Hospital, and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Gaston Community Foundation recognized his outstanding lifetime achievements in community service by presenting him with the Allen H. Sims Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James Edward Stowe will be forever remembered for his tireless work and countless contributions to our community and specifically to Gaston College;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved that: The Gaston College Board of Trustees hereby honors and recognizes the distinguished service of **Mr. James Edward Stowe** for his immeasurable contributions to the community and specifically to Gaston College, and further directs that this Resolution be placed in the minutes of the Board of Trustees and a copy be given to his family.

Respectfully,

James C. Smith
Chair
March 23, 2015

Patricia Rudisill
Secretary

Upon a motion by Mr. Campbell, and a second by Ms. Robinson, the Gaston College Board of Trustees adopted the resolution recognizing the immeasurable contributions to the community, and specifically to Gaston College, of Mr. James Edward Stowe and directed that this resolution be recorded in the official Minutes of the Board of Trustees. The motion carried.

3. Recognition of Board Room Chair Sponsors

In honor of Gaston College's 50th Anniversary, the chairs in the Board Room have been made possible through the generosity of the following benefactors:

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Clay
In honor and memory of Mr. & Mrs. J. M. "Bip" Carstarphen

Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Dalpiaz

Mr. Ron Hovis
In honor of Mrs. Janice Hovis

Mr. Tom Keigher
In honor of the Tom Keigher Family

Mr. Phillip J. Kirk, Jr.
In memory of Mrs. Margaret Simmons Kirk

Mr. John & Dr. Malinda Lowery

Mr. Jeff McKeehan

Mr. Tracy Philbeck / Treescape, Inc.

Dr. Patricia Skinner
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Matt Glavach

Dr. J. Smith
In honor of Mrs. Marilyn H. Smith

Thank you for your support of the work of Gaston College.

Chair Smith thanked and recognized Mr. Dalpiaz, Dr. Skinner, Mr. Keigher, and Mr. John and Dr. Malinda Lowery, who were present at the meeting, for their contribution to the Board of Trustees chairs. A plaque, which was read by Chair Smith, recognized all the donors of the Board Room chairs and will be posted in the Board Room. Wording on the plaque was amended to read, "In honor of Mrs. Janice Hovis".

4. Economic Impact Study Presentation

Dr. Skinner provided a PowerPoint presentation by EMSI (Economic Modeling Specialist, Intl.) that relayed the economic impact and return on investment of Gaston College.

D. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Following is a summary of Dr. Skinner's activities and travel since the November 17, 2014, Board meeting. A full, detailed report is attached with the Minutes.

- Government Affairs Meeting – On December 5, 2014, Dr. Skinner attended the Government Affairs Meeting of the Gaston Regional Chamber.
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission On Colleges (SACSCOC) 2014 Annual Meeting – Drs. Patricia Skinner, Don Ammons, Silvia Husain, and Dewey Dellinger; Ms. Michelle Byrd, Ms. Karen Duncan, Ms. Tonia Broome, and Ms. Heather Woodson attended the SACSCOC 2014 Annual Meeting from December 6-9, 2014.
- Owens Corning Project Meeting – Ms. Julia Allen, Ms. Diane Metcalfe, and Dr. Skinner met with Mr. Suman Raha, General Manager - Non Woven North America at Owens Corning, at his request on December 10, 2014.
- Greater Gaston Development Corporation (GGDC) Workforce Preparedness Committee – On December 15, the GGDC Workforce Preparedness Committee revealed its findings.
- Future of Community College Nursing Education – At the Future of Community College Nursing Education meeting on January 8, 2015, two major topics were reviewed.
- Gaston County Commissioners Meeting – At the request of Mr. Tracy Philbeck, Dr. Skinner made a presentation to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners on January 13, 2015, on Advanced Manufacturing and Economic Development.
- Regional Collaborative for a Global Economy (Formerly Charlotte Regional Workforce Development Partnership (CRWDP)) – On January 14, 2015, the Charlotte Regional Workforce Development Partnership (CRWDP), of which Gaston College is a member, held its annual president's meeting.

- Legislative Coffee and Conversation – Gaston College’s Development Office hosted a Coffee and Conversation event on January 16, 2015, at the Lincoln Campus.
- North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) 2015 Annual Meeting and Board of Director’s Meeting – Dr. Skinner the attended the NCIOM meeting and retreat on January 20, 2015.
- NCACCP Meeting – At the NCACCP Quarterly Meeting, in Fayetteville, on January 21-23, 2015, the presidents continued discussions regarding the Governor’s 2% budget reduction request for the community college system.
- Winter 2015 State Policy Meeting – Dr. Skinner attended the Winter 2015 State Policy Meeting in Seattle, Washington, on January 27-28, 2015.
- DREAM 2015 Conference – Drs. Patricia Skinner, Don Ammons, Silvia Husain, Dewey Dellinger, Rex Clay, and Sharlene Smith attended the DREAM 2015 Conference in Baltimore, MD.
- Substantive Change Committee for Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) – Dr. Skinner served on a Substantive Change Committee in March to review an institution’s continuing compliance with the Principles of Accreditation after implementing a consolidation/merger.
- Meeting with Lincoln County Schools to Implement Afternoon College – On Friday, March 6, 2015, at the Lincoln County Schools Central Office, Dr. Skinner participated in a conversation with administrators from Lincoln County Schools to discuss the possibility of implementing an Afternoon College on the Lincoln Campus (college transfer) and at the Lincoln County School of Technology (career and technical education).
- Mechatronics Workforce Development Presentation – Dr. McElhoe, Dean Cox, Ms. Metcalfe, and Dr. Skinner met with the Firestone Fibers & Textile Company for a WebEx presentation with the director of a Mechatronics Engineering Technology program out of Tennessee.
- Textile and Hosiery Legislative Day – Dr. Skinner attended the annual Textile and Hosiery Legislative day on March 11, 2015.
- Gaston College’s 50th Anniversary Alumni Speakers Series – Ms. Jennie Stultz, former Mayor of Gastonia and current president of Leading By Design, was featured in Gaston College’s 50th Anniversary Alumni Speakers Series on March 11, 2015.
- SPARC3 (Student Persistence and Retention through Curriculum Centralization Cohort) Professional Development Day Conference – The purpose of the conference was to share, through its sessions, information on making the science classroom experience high-impact for all students.

- List of Meetings – Dr. Skinner provided a list of meetings/activities she attended/participated in since the November 17, 2014, Board of Trustees Meeting.

1. President's Proposed Priorities for 2015-2016

The Board of Trustees reviewed the President's Proposed Priorities for 2015-2016 at the Board Retreat on February 6, 2015, and they were presented to the Board for adoption. The President's Priorities for 2015-2016 follow; each Priority is linked back to the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan.

I. Continue to implement student success initiatives – Achieving the Dream (AtD) and Completion by Design (CbD) – with an emphasis on advising aimed at student persistence, closing achievement gaps, and program/credential completion.

Strategic Plan, Initiative I, Goals 1 and 2
Strategic Plan, Initiative II, Goals 4, 5 and 6
Strategic Plan, Initiative IV, Goal 12, 13 and 14

II. Continue to manage and execute the construction and equipping of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) and renovation of the Pharr Trade and Industrial building.

Strategic Plan, Initiative V, Goals 15 and 16

III. Begin preparation for SACSCOC Fifth-Year Interim Report and the Compliance Certification due in 2017.

Strategic Plan, Initiative IV, Goals 10 and 14

IV. Complete the review and update of all HR policies.

Strategic Plan, Initiative IV, Goal 10
Strategic Plan, Initiative V, Goal 15

V. Implement strategies to stabilize enrollment.

Strategic Plan, Initiative I, Goals 1, 2 and 3
Strategic Plan, Initiative II, Goals 4, 5 and 6
Strategic Plan, Initiative III, Goals 7 and 8
Strategic Plan, Initiative VI, Goals 21 and 22

VI. Strengthen collaborative partnerships in the community, region, and state.

Strategic Plan, Initiative III, Goals 7 and 8
Strategic Plan, Initiative VI, Goal 22

Upon a motion by Sheriff Cloninger, and a second by Mr. Keigher, the Gaston College Board of Trustees approved the President's Priorities for 2015-2016. The motion carried.

2. Gaston College's Plan for Assuring Accountability and Credibility in Continuing Education

As required by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges, the Gaston College Continuing Education Internal Audit was completed in accordance with the College's Internal Audit Plan for the period of January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2014. The Continuing Education Internal Audit was completed in accordance with Gaston College's Internal Audit Plan for Spring, Summer, and Fall Semesters 2014. The Continuing Education Internal Audit was presented to the Board for information only.

E. SGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Ross gave the following update on SGA activities since November 2014. The report in its entirety is filed with the minutes.

- Exam Survival Kit
On December 2-4, 2014, SGA gave out donuts and an exam survival kit with study tips to students on all three campuses.
- Toys-for-Tots
SGA held a Toys-for-Tots drive from November 19, 2014, through December 12, 2014. SGA collected 185 gently used and new items to be given as gifts to children during Christmas.
- Welcome Back
SGA welcomed the students back for the Spring Semester on January 20-22, 2015, on all three campuses. In honor of National Popcorn Day, SGA served popcorns to the students.
- Blizzard of Bucks
On February 3, 2015, the Student Government Association decided it was time for some fun. SGA collaborated with Kramer Entertainment to bring in a money wind tunnel filled with \$500 in cash. Students were randomly selected to participate in trivia and fun activities to win a chance for cash.

- GO Red Day: Heart Disease Awareness
On February 6, 2015, SGA encouraged students, faculty, and staff to wear red to show support and increase awareness of improving heart health.
- Club Awareness Day
SGA hosted Club Awareness Day on February 12, 2015, in the Myers Center Café. There were 17 clubs, two Gaston College resource tables, and one community table for a total of 20 tables.
- Valentines for Vets
To provide more programming for veterans, SGA decided to participate in a community service project called Valentines for Veterans.
- American Red Cross Blood Drive
As part of our community service initiative, SGA hosted a campus blood drive with American Red Cross on February 25, 2015.
- The Pizza Social
The SGA hosted a pizza social for the evening students on March 5, March 11, and March 19, 2015. The purpose of this program was to provide a networking atmosphere in which evening students could connect over music, games, and pizza.
- Monday Karaoke
SGA partnered with Queen City Novelties in sponsoring Karaoke for the students on March 9, 2015.

F. Campus Affairs

Mr. Ragan, acting on behalf of Ms. McLean, presented information from the Campus Affairs Committee Meeting held on March 16, 2015.

1. Proposed New Associate Degree Program: Manufacturing Technology (A50320)

The proposed new Associate Degree Program in Manufacturing Technology (A50320) will provide a core of advanced manufacturing courses with a varied set of technical electives to prepare graduates for jobs in the growing advanced manufacturing field. Technical tracks currently included are Chemical Operator, Industrial Electronics Technician, Industrial Machinery Mechanic, and Plastics Operator. The program is designed so that additional tracks can be added as needed by adding technical electives. The program is designed to support the College's growing apprenticeship programs and the mission of the new Center for Advanced Manufacturing. Courses in the new program are taken from courses in existing programs so there will be no need for new personnel or equipment. These courses can support the additional enrollment.

Employers who are part of the new apprenticeship consortium have projected hiring 20 new apprentices before fall 2015. These students would enroll in the Manufacturing Technology program. A survey of ten students enrolled in the Industrial Systems

Technology program showed that 70% would have considered the Manufacturing Technology program if it had been available. The NC Department of Commerce projects manufacturing jobs in the Gaston/Lincoln region will increase 12.7% between 2010 and 2020. During that period, 950 new production jobs (an 11.7% increase) are projected. Local manufacturers have reported great difficulty in filling manufacturing jobs that require technical skills beyond high school.

Of the 58 North Carolina community colleges, ten offer this program. The two closest are Central Piedmont Community College and Isothermal Community College. The program was approved by the Curriculum Committee. A fall 2015 start date is projected. There will be no impact to the budget.

Upon a recommendation from the Campus Affairs Committee, Mr. Ragan moved, with a second by Mr. Keigher, that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the Proposed New Associate Degree Program: Manufacturing Technology (A50320). The motion carried.

2. Proposed New Associate Degree Program: Associate in Engineering (A10500)

The proposed program is a reinstatement of the pre-engineering program that has been offered by Gaston College for over 25 years. The previous program (Associate of Science: Pre-engineering, A1040D) was terminated in 2014 when the new uniform articulation agreement between the NC Community College System and the NC university system was adopted. Pre-engineering students who began in fall 2014 took the same courses as before except under the Associate of Science (A10400) program.

The work to create the new Associate in Engineering (AE) program has been going on for several years; it was approved by the state board in March 2015. The AE program allows students to take English, humanities, fine arts, social science, behavioral science, math and general science courses that will transfer to the various engineering programs offered by NC universities. It is purely a transfer program and is not designed to prepare graduates for employment without completing the bachelor's degree.

Engineers are in high demand. For example, *Forbes* lists mechanical and electrical engineers as fourth and sixth in a list of jobs with excess demand and high salaries for 2015. CareerBuilder lists Industrial Engineers as fourth in a similar list. Typically 8-12 new students have enrolled in the pre-engineering program at Gaston College each year, and there are a total of about 20 students currently enrolled in the program. Most courses in the program are already being offered as part of other programs. One new course, EGR 150 Introduction to Engineering, will be added for pre-engineering freshmen. Several current faculty members in Engineering and Industrial Technology are qualified to teach this course.

NCCCS has provided a fast-track application process so that colleges can begin offering the new program this fall. All that is required is approval by the college's Board of Trustees and a certification by the college president. The program was approved by the

Curriculum Committee. A fall 2015 start date is projected. There will be no impact to the budget.

Upon a recommendation from the Campus Affairs Committee, Mr. Ragan moved, with a second by Dr. Watson, that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the Proposed New Associate Degree Program: Associate in Engineering (A10500). The motion carried.

G. Facilities

1. MtvU Programming

Earlier in the year, MtvU approached the College with a proposal to provide digital cable, closed-circuit television networking on campus. The proposal includes flat-screen televisions installed at no cost to the College and placed in various locations on campus such as dining areas, the fitness center and student lounges. MtvU programming is dedicated to aspects of college life, music, news, and on-campus events.

MtvU proposes to install 5 monitors in the Myers Center, four in the campus café and one in counseling and financial aid, as a pilot program to determine if the network will benefit the campus. The program allows the College to market upcoming campus activities and events as well as disseminate registration information four times an hour. MtvU similarly suggests promoting WSGE through network advertisements and partnering for giveaways and contests. The network also permits the College to take over the programming in the case of emergencies.

A satellite dish is required to stream the network programming. The dish measures 4'x4' and is mounted on a non-penetrating 5'3"x5'3" base. The dish will be installed on the roof of the Myers Center.

The Executive Council suggests moving forward with a pilot program that includes five monitors in the Myers Center. MtvU contract offers a 30-day termination clause. No costs are associated with the MtvU agreement.

Upon the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, Dr. Watson moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the MtvU proposal to install five monitors and one satellite dish to stream programming for the Myers Center. The motion carried.

2. Purchase Property Adjacent to Gaston College Dallas Campus

The property, 207 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 Fay Crooks.

The College administration and attorney Carl Stewart discussed purchasing the property with the owners in 2005. The family declined to sell but planned to contact the College at the appropriate time. Mr. Crooks passed in December leaving the family interested in selling the property.

The property is zoned mixed residential/commercial and has a 2014 tax value of \$120,830. The lot size is .91 acres and contains a 2,010 square-foot house built in 1930 which the College plans to demolish to provide additional parking for the Dallas Campus. Excess lab fees can be utilized to purchase the property; these fees are a monetary accumulation from over many years.

Upon a recommendation from the Facilities Committee, Dr. Watson moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve purchasing the Crooks property for \$126,663 which includes closing costs. The motion carried.

3. Capital Reports

Monthly summaries of the capital reports were submitted for the Board's information. No action was required.

- Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CAM)
Construction drawings were submitted to State Construction for review on January 30, 2015. The Project is on schedule for awarding the construction contract in second quarter 2015, beginning construction second quarter 2015, and completion in summer 2016.
- Pharr Renovation and Expansion – Phase 2
Construction drawings were submitted to the State Construction Office for review on February 5, 2015. State Construction comments have been received, and ADW will resubmit drawings later in March. The Project is on schedule for awarding the construction contract in second quarter, construction to begin in June 2015, and completion in February 2016.

As a matter of note, Dr. Watson relayed to the Board that work toward a future Facilities Master Plan was progressing, and he hoped to review the process and timeline with them soon.

H. FINANCE

1. FY 2015-16 Gaston County Operating Budget

The Board reviewed the proposed FY 2015-16 Gaston County Operating Budget. This year's budget request is an increase of \$81,153 over the FY 2014-15 request.

- 2% salary increase and related FICA \$52,777
- 2.5% retirement plan increase \$11,095
- Operating expense increases \$17,281

Total estimated increase: **\$81,153**

The FY 2015-16 operating budget request for Gaston County totals \$4,828,079.

Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Mr. Campbell moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the proposed FY 2015-16 Gaston County operating budget request of \$4,828,079. The motion carried.

2. FY 2015-16 Gaston County Capital Project Budget

The Board reviewed the proposed FY 2015-16 County Capital Project Budget along with future year projections. The capital budget for FY 2015-16 reflects a budget of \$697,259 for planned projects. The budget is subject to change due to any unforeseen maintenance expenses.

Prior to the fiscal year 2010-11, Gaston County provided \$697,259 in funding for capital priorities for Gaston College. Over the past five years, funding has been reduced to \$453,219. The College appealed for special additional funding of \$340,900 in two supplemental requests during the five year period. These supplemental requests were approved by the County Commissioners. The net reduction in capital funding from the historical level of \$697,259 has totaled \$879,300 for the five year period. This reduced annual funding of \$453,219 has resulted in unmet needs for roofs, boilers, chillers, and renovations for ADA compliant elevators and restrooms. The College maintains 34 buildings totaling 610,000 square feet and \$114.4 million of insurance value in Gaston County.

The FY 2015-16 Gaston County Capital Project Budget totals \$697,259. In addition, the College is requesting special one-time funding of \$500,000 for equipping the new Center for Advanced Manufacturing.

1) Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Mr. Campbell moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the proposed FY 2015-16 Gaston County Capital Project Budget be restored to the previous level of \$697,259. The motion carried.

2) Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Mr. Campbell moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the special one-time funding request of \$500,000 to Gaston County to equip the new Center for Advanced Manufacturing. The motion carried.

3. Legislative Priorities Resolution

The State Board of Community Colleges has formally endorsed the legislative priorities adopted by the NCACCP and the NCACCT. The Board reviewed a one-page summary

provided by NCCCS for use in communicating with our legislators and business and industry leaders in our community who benefit from our programs. They also reviewed a board resolution urging the General Assembly to support the 2015-17 recommended budget priorities.

1) Closing the Salary Gap: Instructor and Staff Salaries - Allow colleges to retain \$59 million in recurring funds now returned to the state as part of management flexibility cuts and invest those funds in instructor and staff salaries which could improve average instructor salary by 5%

2) Closing the Interest Gap: NCWorks Career Coaches – Appropriate \$7 million in recurring funds over two years to establish a fund to match business, donations, and local funding for community college career coaches in high schools

3) Closing the Technology Gap: Equipment and IT – Appropriate \$10 million in nonrecurring funds for equipment to support new technology-based jobs and \$5 million in recurring funds to provide support to pilot up to nine colleges in the hosted environment in 2015-16

4) Year-Round Funding – authorizes Universal General Education Transfer courses that transfer to all UNC institutions to earn FTE year-round

5) In-state Tuition for Veterans – Carry forward and repurpose the Yellow Ribbon Program funds to support the cost of resident tuition rates for veterans and appropriate \$1 million in recurring funds in 2016-17 to offset the remaining impact on tuition receipts

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT
NORTH CAROLINA’S COMMUNITY COLLEGES DRAFT**

WHEREAS, North Carolina Community College instructors taught more than 800,000 students during the 2013-2014 academic year, accounting for one in nine North Carolina citizens 18 and older; and,

WHEREAS, Forty percent of North Carolina wage-earners attended a North Carolina community college in the past ten years; and,

WHEREAS, Community college instructors teach university-equivalent courses that transfer to UNC constituent institutions under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, Local employers rely on Gaston College instructors to provide a trained workforce; and,

WHEREAS, Community college instructors teach more than 800 continuing education courses with over 300 courses leading to a state-regulated or industry-recognized credential; and,

WHEREAS, Community college instructors provide customized workforce training to business and industry; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston College instructors and staff are highly-trained, experienced, and dedicated employees who are the key to student success; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston College instructors and staff help citizens obtain higher-paying jobs, help employers by providing a skilled workforce, help families by providing high-quality, cost-effective education; and,

WHEREAS HOWEVER, North Carolina Community College instructor and staff salaries rank among the lowest nationally and in the Southeast; and,

WHEREAS, Employers have expressed the need to develop a pipeline of talented workers to meet current and future workforce demands, but there is an “interest gap” in technical careers among young people; and,

WHEREAS, In order to prepare North Carolina’s workforce, Gaston College must have up-to-date equipment and technology; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina Community Colleges operate one of the largest higher education IT systems in the U.S. and colleges must move to a new operating platform before the current platform reaches end-of-life; and,

WHEREAS, Teaching the Universal General Education Transfer Courses (UGETC) that transfer to all UNC constituent institutions will provide Gaston College students the opportunity to earn additional transfer credits at a lower cost to both the student and the State; and,

WHEREAS, Veterans are a vital part of North Carolina’s economy and Congress has mandated in-state tuition for certain veterans and their dependents.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GASTON COLLEGE strongly urges the General Assembly to invest in North Carolina’s community colleges by:

CLOSING THE SALARY GAP for Community College Instructors and Staff by allowing colleges to retain \$59 million now returned to the State as a part of management flexibility cuts and invest those funds in instructor and staff salaries;

CLOSING THE INTEREST GAP by appropriating \$7 million in recurring funds over two years to establish a fund to match business, philanthropic and local funding to place community college-employed career coaches in high schools;

CLOSING THE TECHNOLOGY GAP by:

Appropriating \$10 million in non-recurring funds for equipment to provide a significant infusion of funds to support equipment for programs leading to well-paying jobs; and,

Appropriating \$5 million in recurring funds to provide support to pilot up to nine colleges to move to a hosted “cloud” environment as required by State ITS which is expected to be more technically efficient and allow colleges to begin to move to a new platform;

AUTHORIZING YEAR-ROUND FUNDING FOR UNIVERSAL GENERAL EDUCATION TRANSFER COURSES (UGETC) which transfer to all UNC constituent institutions;

SUPPORTING VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS by funding in-state tuition for veterans and dependents as required by federal law.

Respectfully,

James C. Smith, Chair
March 23, 2015

Patricia Rudisill, Secretary

Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Mr. Campbell moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees endorse the legislative budget priorities and the resolution. The motion carried.

4. Supplemental State Budget Allocation

The following Supplemental State Budget Allocations were received after the FY 2014-15 State Budget was finalized:

Customized Training (364)	\$164,767
Customized Training Program (359)	11,966
Longevity	318,589
Reversion – General	(264,545)
Reversion – Basic Skills	(25,000)
Reversion – Childcare Grant	(5,000)
Total	\$200,777

This was presented to the Board as a matter of information.

5. Financial Reports

Summaries of expenditures for FY 2014-15 year-to-date for State, Gaston, and Lincoln operating budgets and proprietary accounts in comparison to the previous year were presented for the Board’s review and information.

The Board inquired about the café service currently employed by the College. Administration felt they were a good fit for the College and reassured the Board that efforts are being made to encourage customer volume and catering opportunities.

I. REPORT FROM NCACCT

Mr. Vinson encouraged all Board members to attend the NCACCT Law/Legislative Conference on April 18-10, 2015. He also relayed that the NCACCT is continuing to lobby for funds for community colleges.

J. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Smith thanked the staff for the tour of the newly renovated Pharr Trade and Industrial building. He indicated that a book, Community College Laws of North Carolina, was at each Board members place for their future reference. He reminded the Board members to be sure to complete their SEI (Statement of Economic Interest) filing by April 15, 2015. He also encouraged each Board member to attend graduation at the end of the year.

K. Announcements

Chair Smith reviewed with the Board the list of upcoming meetings and events. Dr. Skinner also let the Board know that an official Open House would be held for the Pharr Trade and Industrial building on April 20, 2015, at 10 a.m., in the Pharr lobby. Members of the Golden Leaf foundation, the College Foundation Board, County Commissioners from Lincoln and Gaston Counties, and State and National House of Representatives and Senate leadership will be invited.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Rudisill, Secretary

James C. Smith, Chair

Mary Ellen Dillon, Recording Secretary

(College Seal)