

**Minutes of the
Gaston College
Board of Trustees Meeting
Myers Center Board Room
August 26, 2019**

Members Present: Mr. John Dancoff
Ms. Jennifer Davis
Ms. Iris Hopper
Mr. Steve Huffstetler
Mr. Tom Keigher
Mr. Brad Overcash
Ms. Janie Peak
Ms. Suzanne Riley
Mr. James Smith
Ms. Natalie Tindol
Mr. Randy Vinson
Dr. Jim Watson, Chair
Ms. Tyazia Herring, SGA President

Dr. Patricia Skinner, President

Members Absent: Mr. Stephen Campbell, Secretary
Sheriff Alan Cloninger

Others Present: Dr. Allison Abernathy, Ms. Lee Ann Arrowood, Mr. Andrew Ban, Mr. Todd Baney, Mr. Sam Buff, Judge Craig Collins, Ms. Jasmine Cox, Ms. Leslie Dancy, Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Ms. Carol Denton, Ms. Mary Ellen Dillon, Ms. Lynda Ellington, Mr. James Eubanks, Ms. Kristin Gibson, Mr. Travis Hogue, Ms. Gail Huss, Ms. Renita Johnson, Ms. Tamara Jones, Mr. Joshua Mays, Ms. Cynthia McCrory, Dr. Dennis McElhoe, Ms. Stephanie Michael-Pickett, Ms. Rebecca Nance, Dr. Jennifer Nichols, Ms. Deanna Norman, Mr. Lee Porter, Dr. Jim Ragan, Dr. Silvia Patricia Rios Husain, Ms. Jessica Rodriguez, Mr. Kent Spitler, Mr. Melvin Totten, Mr. Luke Upchurch, Dr. Heather Woodson; and Mr. Carl Stewart, College Attorney.

- **Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and declared a quorum present.**
- **Invocation – Mr. Smith**
- **Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder**

Chair Watson 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 noted.

A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Watson asked if there were any changes, additions, or corrections to the agenda. None were identified. Mr. Vinson moved to approve the agenda; Ms. Riley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 17, 2019, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING.

Chair Watson presented the Minutes of the June 17, 2019, Board of Trustees Meeting and asked if there were any additions or corrections. No changes were identified.

Mr. Dancoff moved to approve the June 17, 2019, minutes; Ms. Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

C. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Welcome/Introduction of New Employees

Dr. Skinner welcomed Mr. Joshua Mays, Faculty Senate Vice President, and Ms. Jasmine Cox, Staff Senate President.

Dr. Skinner introduced:

Mr. Andrew Ban, Campus Police Officer
Ms. Gail Huss, Communications Specialist-Campus Police and Security
Mr. Lee Porter, Communications Specialist-Campus Police and Security
Mr. Melvin Totten, Campus Police Officer

Dr. Dellinger Introduced:

Ms. Crista Cammaroto, Instructor-Art, 9-Month (Did not attend.)
Ms. Paige Crisp, Instructor-Esthetics, 9-Month (Did not attend.)
Ms. Logan Dupree, Instructor-English, 9-Month (Did not attend.)
Ms. Kristin Gibson, Instructor-Sociology, 9-Month
Ms. Rebecca Nance, Instructor-Accounting, 9-Month
Mr. Austin Price, Instructor-Welding Technology, 9-Month (Did not attend.)
Ms. Jessica Rodriguez, Instructor-Cosmetology, 9-Month

Dr. Husain Introduced:

Ms. Lee Ann Arrowood, Academic Advisor

Dr. McElhoe Introduced:

Ms. Leslie Dancy, Project Manager-BioNetwork Learning Solutions Center

Mr. James Eubanks, Coordinator/Instructor-Department for EMS Education
Ms. Tamara Jones, WIOA Youth Coordinator
Ms. Deanna Norman, Project Support Assistant-Business and Industry Training

2. Welcome New Trustees

Chair Watson welcomed two new trustees to the Board – Ms. Iris Hopper and Mr. Steve Huffstetler.

Ms. Iris Hopper is a graduate of Belmont Abbey College with a BA in Business Management and a Minor in Theology. She currently is a Project Manager for Duke Energy, where she has 18 years of experience in Energy Operations. That experience has helped her understand all phases of process improvement planning and implementation for the Operations Center to ensure resource management, internal controls and governance.

Mr. Steve Huffstetler is a graduate of Belmont Abbey College with a BA in Business Administration. He attended the Graduate School of Banking, at Louisiana State University, where he was awarded a certificate for Banking and Finance. He has over 40 years in the banking industry and is currently employed with Alliance Bank of Gastonia as a Senior VP in Commercial Lending-Gaston County Market President.

3. Recognition of Service to the Board

Chair Watson, on behalf of the Board, had invited Judge Craig Collins and Dr. Jim Ragan to attend the August Board of Trustees meeting to thank them for their service to the Board as both had completed their terms.

Chair Watson recognized **Judge Craig Collins**. Judge Collins was appointed by the Governor's Office to serve on the Gaston College Board of Trustees. He had served one, four-year term. Since his appointment in 2015, he had served four years as a member of the Board's Campus Affairs Committee, where several policies were brought forward for review and approval. He also participated in the work to approve a new Facilities Master Plan and participated in the process to define the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan. Chair Watson thanked him for his service and commitment to the Gaston College Board of Trustees and presented him with an engraved clock.

Chair Watson also recognized **Dr. Jim Ragan**. Dr. Ragan was appointed by the Gaston County Board of Education to serve on the Gaston College Board of Trustees. He had served three, four-year terms; six of those years as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. Since his appointment in 2007, he had also served one year as a member of the Board's Finance Committee, five years on the Facilities Committee as Chair of that Committee, and six years on the Campus Affairs Committee, three of those years as Committee Chair.

As a member and Chair of the Facilities Committee, the bids for the driving track and the David Belk Cannon Health Institute were approved, architects were selected for various projects, and several renovation projects took place. During his tenure on the Campus Affairs Committee, the College brought forward many policies for review and approval. He

also participated in the work to approve two Strategic Plans and a new Facilities Master Plan. Chair Watson thanked Dr. Ragan for his guidance on the Board Committees and his commitment and dedication to the Gaston College Board of Trustees. He presented Dr. Ragan with an engraved clock.

4. Update on Healthcare Partnerships

Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Vice President for Academic Affairs, relayed to the Board that a year ago personnel in the Academic Affairs Division joined with Gaston County Schools in a partnership to bring a health-oriented curriculum to Gaston County School students, particularly, the high school students. Dr. Dellinger invited Dr. Allison Abernathy, Dean of the Health and Human Services Division, to provide the Board with an update related to Gaston College's healthcare partnerships.

Dr. Abernathy relayed how the Health and Human Services division's programs seek to provide students an opportunity for a high-quality, hands-on, education and learning experience to earn a certificate, diploma and/or an Associate Degree in one or more fields of study. One of their recent endeavors is a collaboration with CaroMont Health in the **Nurse Aide (II) apprenticeship program** through Apprenticeship 321. The first graduation ceremony was held in spring 2019; the second cohort of students began this fall.

The Division's efforts have now moved to begin a **Health Sciences Academy at East Gaston High School** in collaboration with Gaston County Schools. This program seeks to meet the needs of students and the Healthcare community through collaboration and an integrated curriculum design. In addition to coursework, students will participate in special opportunities for work-based learning, industry connections, health industry certifications, and post-secondary educational opportunities. Students in the Academy will explore their interest in the Health Science field while in high school and gain unique experience to prepare them for the workforce, community college, or a four-year university. There are entrance requirements into the Health Science Academy that students must meet.

Dr. Abernathy also relayed information about a new **Belmont Abbey College, CaroMont Health, and Gaston College** collaboration that has recently begun. As part of that effort, she and Ms. Leslie Pressley, Gaston College's Director of Nursing, are members of the Curriculum Design Team and are tasked to determine the curriculum involved within the healthcare programs that are being pursued by Belmont Abbey College. The curriculum design is due to be presented to Belmont Abbey's Board on October 29, 2019. Dr. Abernathy explained this is an opportunity to make sure Gaston College is involved so students attending Gaston can seamlessly articulate into the Belmont Abbey College programs. The programs being considered include a traditional nursing Bachelor of Science degree, a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, and an Informatics Healthcare program. This partnership will build a pipeline for Gaston College students desiring to attain a higher degree.

Dr. Husain then asked Dr. Jennifer Nichols, Dean of Admissions and Educational Partnerships, to provide information on an educational partnership the College has embarked on with Gaston County Schools to create a **Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences at Kimbrell Campus**. Dr. Nichols relayed that this is under the umbrella of a **Cooperative Innovative High School (CIHS)** as it does have a high school component. Gaston County Schools and Gaston College strive to create a career pipeline for healthcare professionals that will have an economic impact on the community. Together, they have embarked on an aggressive application process with the State, which is still underway, but should be ready for submission by September 13. They have also had numerous collaborative working meetings to determine the CIHS College programing/pathways. Notification of possible acceptance will come in February 2020.

The proposed pathways for the Early College of Medical Sciences will include: Associate in General Education-Nursing, Pre-Med/Biotechnology Diploma, Human Services/Social Work Associate in Applied Science or Diploma, and Medical Office Administration Diploma and would be completed in four years, with one track a five-year track. Some of the tracks are transferrable to four-year colleges/universities while others would give the student a working credential with which to gain employment.

The plan is to have the program underway by fall 2021 as it will take time to prepare the marketing for the program, create a student application process, establish class curriculums, and prepare facilities to house all aspects that encompass a high school. Similar to the Gaston Early College High School on Gaston College's Dallas Campus, Gaston County Schools will provide transportation. Dr. Nichols added that each program would accommodate 70-80 students per grade level to keep the programs individualized.

Dr. Nichols thanked the Board for promoting Gaston College within the community as it has brought CaroMont Health, Belmont Abbey College, and Gaston County Schools as eager participants in these educational partnerships that do enhance the lives of Gaston and Lincoln counties' citizens. Dr. Watson thanked Drs. Nichols and Abernathy, and all the staff, for the exciting information and the hard work they are doing towards the educational partnerships. He noted that the healthcare job sector is thriving, and he is glad Gaston is poised to be a part of that growth. Dr. Skinner also added her thanks for the leadership and innovative efforts the College administration and staff are undertaking with regard to formation and execution of all the partnership programs currently underway to meet the needs of the community.

D. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Following is a summary of Dr. Skinner's activities and travel since the June 17, 2019, Board meeting. Additional details for each item can be found with the report in the Board packet distributed at the meeting.

- Opening of the Austin Library at Gastonia's Dream Center Academy - The Austin Library at Gastonia's Dream Center Academy had its grand opening on July 23, 2019. This library was established by Mr. and Mrs. Nazrul Chowdhury as a memorial to their son Austin's life and love for reading.

- North Carolina Community College Presidents (NCACCP) Quarterly Meeting - The NCACCP Quarterly meeting was held July 24-26, 2019, at Isothermal Community College.
- Governor Cooper Visits Gaston College's Lincoln Campus - Governor Cooper came to the Lincoln Campus for a brief visit and tour on Tuesday, August 13, 2019.
- Convocation for Faculty and Staff - Gaston College held its fall Convocation event on August 16, 2019. This is an event to welcome everyone back for a new year and provide updates on current initiatives.
- President's Community Roundtable at Belmont Abbey College - Dr. Bill Thierfelder, President of Belmont Abbey College, has established the President's Community Roundtable as a quarterly initiative where business and community leaders are invited to Belmont Abbey College to discuss topics of specific interest to the community and region.
- North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees (NCACCT) Leadership Seminar - The 2019 Fall NCACCT Leadership Seminar was held in Wilmington, on August 21-23, 2019. Nine trustees attended with Dr. Skinner. On Thursday, August 22, the NCACCP also gathered for a brief meeting.

E. SGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Herring, SGA President, gave the following update on SGA activities since June 17, 2019. The report in its entirety can be found in the Board meeting packet.

- SGA Leadership Training - The 2019-2020 SGA Executive Board and Senators participated in a training for the upcoming academic year on July 22-25 and August 5-7, 2019.
- Greeter Day - SGA partnered with the Student Success Committee and participated in Greeter Day that was held on August 19-20, at the Dallas Campus.
- Welcome Back Events - SGA has planned Welcome Back events during the first two weeks of class on all three campuses. In addition, the third annual Student Success Expo will be held on August 28, 2019.
- Senate Meetings - SGA's first Senate meeting for the 2019-2020 academic year will be on September 6, 2019, in the Myers Center Conference Room.

F. FACILITIES

1. Architect Selection – Lincoln Campus Expansion

The 2016 Facilities Master Plan included Lincoln Campus expansion as a future priority. Lincoln County will be relocating the Senior Center this fall. The Senior Center occupies approximately 17,500 square feet of the main Lincoln Campus building. The existing space could potentially be renovated into academic classrooms, support spaces and much-needed study/learning center spaces.

To determine the best use for the Senior Center space, a space needs analysis is desired. ADW Architects completed some preliminary space assessments for Lincoln Campus in the Master Plan, therefore it is recommended that ADW be contracted to expand upon their earlier work in completing this space needs assessment and continue as the architect for the project.

Upon the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, Mr. Dancoff moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the selection of ADW Architects for completion of a space needs assessment for the Lincoln Campus, in preparation for a future renovation project. The motion carried.

2. Capital Report

A Capital Report on the Veterinary Medical Technology Facility was submitted for the Board's information and review. No action was required.

Veterinary Medical Technology Facility

Ms. McCrory reported that the project is moving ahead as expected. Installation of storm drains, catch basins, and underground building electrical are complete. Bearing plates, lintels and bar joists are set. In the next 30 days, concrete masonry walls will be completed and plumbing and electrical work will continue. She also reported seeing some ceiling joists on site. Fifty-three percent of the contract work has been completed as of August 14, 2019.

G. FINANCE

1. Fee Increase on TEAS Pass-Through Exam

At the May 13, 2019, meeting, the Gaston College Board of Trustees approved the College's fee schedule for 2019-20. At that time, the pass-through cost for the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) test was \$55, unchanged from the previous year. The TEAS exam is utilized by Gaston College as an admissions test for the RN, LPN-RN, Medical Assisting and Vet Tech programs. Early in July 2019, the College was notified by Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) of a cost increase to \$65 per test, effective July 1, 2019. The increase in the TEAS exam fee will be passed along to ATI to cover the cost of the exam.

Upon a recommendation from the Finance Committee, Mr. Overcash moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the revised fee for the TEAS exam to the Board of Trustees. The motion carried.

2. 2019-2020 State Budget Update

The Governor vetoed the budget on June 28, 2019. The House leadership did attempt to get enough votes to override the veto, but has not been able to do so. While the veto has not been overridden, the budget bill override remains on the House calendar. Thus, the

veto could still be overridden if the House is able to get enough votes. The Governor and legislative leadership have not reached a compromise.

In the absence of an approved budget for 2019-2020, the College has received guidance from the Office of the State Budget and Management (OSBM) to operate with the 2018-19 authorized budget, excluding nonrecurring funding and using final 2019-2020 budget FTE as the basis of funding.

3. 2019-2020 Proposed County Capital Priorities

The Board reviewed the proposed County Capital Priorities for 2019-2020 based on the \$697,000 in capital funding provided by Gaston County for the 2019-2020 budget year. This item is for information only.

2019-2020	Priority	Budget Amount	Source
Burn Building repairs - Phase II (replace concrete decking caulking ext. joints, leaning building, painting front)	1	\$218,500	County Cap
Pharr roof replacement (sections A2-A4)	2	\$350,000	County Cap
Beam Administration Building Assessment	3	\$20,000	County Cap
Maintenance Reserve	4	\$75,000	County Cap
OSHA/ADA	5	\$20,000	County Cap
Energy Conservation	6	\$13,500	County Cap
BUDGET YEAR TOTAL		\$697,000	County Cap

4. Financial Reports

A summary of expenditures for FY 2018-2019 through June 30, 2019, for State, Gaston, and Lincoln operating budgets and proprietary accounts in comparison to the previous year was presented for the Board's review and information. No action was required.

H. REPORT FROM NCACCT

Mr. Vinson relayed that the recent Fall NCACCT Leadership Seminar in Wilmington had its highest attendance with 304 registered trustees and an overall attendance of 357 people. He credited NCACCT President Julie Woodson and her staff for doing a great job of selecting session topics that truly resonate with the issues and concerns of trustees. Mr. Dancoff added that the speakers were great and the topics concerning economic development and building partnerships tied right in with what he does everyday as part of the Lincoln Economic Development Association.

Mr. Vinson added that the NCACCT Lobbyist, Mr. Jim Harrell, is working hard behind the scenes to assist with the State budget impasse, but there has not been any movement lately. The NCACCT is also working with the NCCCS and the NCACCP to get equity for salaries for community college employees at the same percentage rate as proposed for other State employees. Dr. Watson thanked Mr. Vinson for his report.

I. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Watson asked Mr. Smith for his report as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for 2019-2020 Board Officers. Ms. Tindol and Mr. Dancoff also served on the Committee; however, Mr. Dancoff excused himself and Mr. Campbell took his place. Board Officers serve on the Board for one-year terms and may be reelected up to three years. The Committee placed the name of Mr. Brad Overcash in nomination for Board Chair, Mr. John Dancoff in nomination for Vice Chair, and Ms. Jennifer Davis in nomination for Board Secretary. Chair Watson asked if there were any nominations from the floor; no additional nominations were made.

Chair Watson entertained a motion by Mr. Vinson that the Board accept the three nominations by acclamation and elect each officer as presented by the Nominating Committee; Mr. Keigher seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Board congratulated the newly appointed officers and gave them a round of applause.

J. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Appointment of Foundation Board Members

Pending Board of Trustees approval, the following individuals have agreed to serve on the Gaston College Foundation Board of Directors:

Mr. Marty Hallman. Mr. Hallman is the plant manager of Timken, in Lincolnton. He is fulfilling Mr. Rege Eger's unexpired term as he resigned from the Board on June 30, 2019, due to being relocated. Mr. Hallman is a graduate of UNC-Charlotte and has been with Timken since 1990 in various roles including Line Manager, Operations Manager, and Plant Manager in various locations throughout the country. Mr. Hallman is nominated to serve a four-year term.

Mr. Nazrul Chowdhury. Mr. Chowdhury is the president of Tire Cord USA, in Cherryville. More recently, Mr. Chowdhury has been involved in the Remembering Austin campaign in coordination with the Gaston Controlled Substances Coalition to address the opioid crisis in the area. Mr. Chowdhury is nominated to serve a three-year term.

The Gaston College Foundation Board requests that the individuals mentioned above be approved to serve terms beginning on July 1, 2019.

Chair Watson entertained a motion that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Mr. Marty Hallman and Mr. Nazrul Chowdhury to serve on the Gaston College Foundation Board of Directors as stated above. Mr. Keigher made the motion; Ms. Peak seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. Presidential Search Update

Chair Watson called on Mr. Overcash to update the Board regarding the Presidential Search. Mr. Overcash relayed that the Committee, which is comprised of Mr. Keigher, Ms. Davis, Sheriff Cloninger and himself, had met twice during the summer. At the second meeting, a few decisions were made, one of which was that Sheriff Cloninger would be the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee. However, since he could not attend today's meeting, Mr. Overcash updated the Board on the following items that had been discussed. A decision was made that three more trustees would be added to the Committee, giving the Committee seven voting members. Additionally, six non-voting members would be added to the Committee, which would be a Lincoln County and Gaston County community leader, a member of the College staff, College faculty, Student Government Association, and the Gaston College Foundation. As Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Overcash would make the appointments to the Committee.

Additionally, the Committee voted to appoint Mr. Carl Stewart and Mr. Todd Baney to function as liaisons/consultants to guide the Search Committee through the search process. A timeline, steps, and many other preliminary documents have been prepared to begin to move the search forward immediately.

3. Presentation of Framed Presidential Medallion to Dr. Skinner

Chair Watson reminded the Board that at this year's commencement ceremony Dr. Skinner was presented with Gaston College's first Presidential Medallion in appreciation for her 25 years of service as President of Gaston College. Recently, the medallion had been professionally framed in a shadow box to preserve it, and Dr. Watson presented it back to Dr. Skinner. The Board gave Dr. Skinner a round of applause.

4. Thank you to Trustees

Chair Watson relayed that it had been his privilege to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the last three years. He thanked the Trustees for their support, cooperation, and confidence during that time. He noted that a lot of hard work had been done at committee meetings, a lot of events attended, and a lot of thanks should be given to the President, her direct reports, staff, and Mr. Stewart as they all had worked in a cohesive manner. He praised the Board for their non-partisan operation, which did not exclude debate and discussion, but kept as its goal the mission of Gaston College and the impact the Board wanted to make in the communities the College serves. Dr. Watson reiterated his thanks to all the trustees, as serving with them for the College had been one of the most enjoyable Board experiences he has had.

5. Update of the President's 25th Anniversary/Retirement Gala

The Gala to celebrate President Skinner's 25th Anniversary as President of Gaston College and her impending retirement will be held September 21, 2019. Responses have been coming in steadily, and Dr. Watson encouraged the trustees to be sure to send in their RSVPs. The College will take this occasion to celebrate the many accomplishments achieved during Dr. Skinner's tenure.

K. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Watson invited the Board to review the list of upcoming meetings and events. He encouraged the Trustees to find time to attend some of the upcoming activities. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on September 23, 2019.

L. AJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen D. Campbell, Secretary

Dr. Jim Watson, Chair

Mary Ellen Dillon, Recording Secretary

(College Seal)