

**Minutes of the
Gaston College
Board of Trustees Meeting
Myers Center Board Room
June 17, 2019**

Members Present: Sheriff Alan Cloninger
Judge Craig Collins
Mr. John Dancoff
Ms. Jennifer Davis
Mr. Tom Keigher
Mr. Brad Overcash
Ms. Janie Peak
Dr. Jim Ragan, Vice Chair
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

Others Present: Dr. Justin Arnold, Mr. Todd Baney, Mr. Sam Buff, Ms. Sherry Carpenter, Ms. Jasmine Cox, Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Ms. Mary Ellen Dillon, Ms. Lynda Ellington, Mr. Cliff Grimsley, Ms. Ashley Hagler, Ms. Jennifer Haygood, Ms. Dara Hearn, Mr. Travis Hogue, Ms. Lori Hupp, Ms. Renita Johnson, Ms. Cynthia McCrory, Dr. Dennis McElhoe, Ms. Stephanie Michael-Pickett, Dr. Silvia Patricia Rios Husain, Mr. Luke Upchurch, Ms. Brittany Wilson; and Mr. Carl Stewart, College Attorney.

- **Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and declared a quorum present.**
- **Invocation – Mr. Overcash**
- **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. Judge Collins moved to approve the agenda; Sheriff Cloninger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 13, 2019, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING.

Chair Watson presented the Minutes of the May 13, 2019, Board of Trustees Meeting and asked if there were any additions or corrections. No changes were identified.

Mr. Vinson moved to approve the May 13, 2019, minutes; Ms. Peak seconded the motion. The motion carried.

C. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Welcome/Introduction of New Employees

Dr. Skinner welcomed Ms. Lori Hupp, Faculty Senate President; Ms. Sherry Carpenter, Staff Senate Past President; Ms. Jasmine Cox, Incoming Staff Senate President; and Ms. Jennifer Haygood, North Carolina Community College System Office Executive VP and Chief of Staff.

Dr. Husain Introduced:

Ms. Dara Hearn, Assistant Director-Financial Aid

Ms. McCrory Introduced:

Ms. Brittany Wilson, Administrative Assistant-Technology Services

Dr. McElhoe Introduced:

Dr. Justin Arnold, Associate Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development

2. Recognition of Mr. Cliff Grimsley – Outstanding 9-16 Educator Award in Science, Mathematics, and Technology

Mr. Cliff Grimsley, who is a veteran Biology instructor for Gaston College, recently won the North Carolina Science, Math, and Technology (SMT) Center's 9-16 Educator Award. Dr. Skinner invited Mr. Grimsley to the meeting to honor him for this award and to relay his story to the Board. Mr. Grimsley not only invests his time with Gaston College's students and curriculum initiatives, but he also volunteers for the regional science fair to encourage elementary, middle, and high school students to participate in STEM research. He has helped dozens of students working on their science projects who might need a lab in which to conduct their research. A short film clip that was put together by the North Carolina Science, Math, and Technology Center featuring Mr. Grimsley was played for the Board. At the end of the clip, Mr. Grimsley comments that since he had no children of his

own, he considers all of his students his children. The Board congratulated Mr. Grimsley for his valued work.

3. Presidential Search-North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) Office

Chair Watson welcomed Ms. Jennifer Haygood, North Carolina Community College System Office Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff to the meeting. As background, he relayed that Ms. Haygood had been with the System Office since 2008. She served as Acting President of the North Carolina Community College System from October 2017 through May 2018, while the State Board conducted its search for a permanent president. She has also served as the System's CFO from 2008 through October 2016 managing approximately \$1.5 billion in State, federal, and tuition funds that support the State's 58 community colleges and System Office. Ms. Haygood attended the Board meeting to share some of the State's requirements and other issues for the Board to consider as it begins the presidential search process.

The Board had been provided three documents: the State Code (1C SBCCC 300.1) defining the presidential search process, a copy of the slides in Ms. Haygood's PowerPoint presentation, and a copy of a booklet from The Aspen Institute titled, "Hiring Exceptional Community College Presidents," they could use as a reference.

Ms. Haygood began her presentation by defining the roles and responsibilities of the College Board of Trustees, the NCCCS Office, and the State Board of Community Colleges related to the presidential search process. She continued with naming the four basic steps that are part of North Carolina State Code that would encompass the selection process. Ms. Haygood explained each step in her effort to lay out in a total picture the local recruitment and vetting process considerations the Board would need to contemplate as it determines the parameters of Gaston College's presidential search. Some of these considerations related to whether to use a search committee or consultant, developing a job description, advertising, screening of applications, and interviewing of candidates. Still more items to consider related to background checks, terms of employment, retirement benefits, and final State Board approval. A question and answer session followed Ms. Haygood's presentation.

Some of the points Ms. Haygood brought out:

- The Board does have flexibility on how they want to do the search. Other colleges have had town halls and open forums to ask constituents to identify qualities they want in a president. Surveys work well, too.
- The Board can decide which credentials will qualify a candidate for review during the search and if they want the candidate to live in the community. They can also decide which, if any, additional documents they would like candidates to submit with their application. These items should be stated in the advertisement for the position.
- A college does not have to take the lowest bid if an RFP is placed for a Search Consultant. The best value selection is recommended.
- For the Board's final candidate recommendation to the State Board, more than one candidate can be considered.

- The Board can decide if they want to enter into a contract with the president.
- If a viable candidate has not been found by the time Dr. Skinner retires, the College would elect an Interim (someone coming from outside the College) or Acting (someone on staff stepping into the role) President to perform a president's official duties. Someone must be named; however, the State Office would also need to approve that candidate. That approval process is not as in-depth as a permanent candidate for president. Also, a candidate for the president's position can be named an interim, but that is not recommended. A stipulation regarding such a situation could be part of the position advertisement.

In conclusion, Ms. Haygood advised the Board to determine who would be a contact between the Board and herself, and she looked forward to working with the Board throughout the search process. She thanked the Trustees for welcoming her and said she was open to answering their questions anytime.

A copy of Ms. Haygood's presentation slides will be kept with the minutes.

D. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Following is a summary of Dr. Skinner's activities and travel since the May 13, 2019, Board meeting. Additional details for each item can be found with the report in the Board packet distributed at the meeting.

- Gaston Early College High School Graduation - The seventh Gaston Early College High School graduation took place on May 16, 2019. There were 36 graduates walking across the stage to receive their diplomas. However, this was not the first graduation for some of the students as some had graduated from Gaston College on May 10, 2019. Nine graduates had completed an Associate of Arts degree, and 27 had received both an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science degree.
- NCACCT North Carolina Community College Executive Assistants Presentation - The NCACCT held a NC Community College Executive Assistants Training June 5-7, 2019, in Greensboro. For this event, Dr. Skinner was asked to provide a presentation for the Executive Assistants on "Dealing with Difficult People."
- Gaston College North Carolina Guided Pathways to Success (NC GPS) Retreat - On June 11, 2019, Dr. Heather Woodson, NC GPS liaison, held a retreat for members of the Gaston College NC GPS implementation team. This was an opportunity to review progress the GPS team has made related to implementing guided pathways to success.
- Meeting with Gaston County Schools - Gaston County Schools has expressed interest in partnering with Gaston College to form a new Early College High School. Dr. Skinner will keep the Board informed as more details become available.
- Grant Update - The Women's Impact Fund in Charlotte awarded Gaston College a \$76,000 grant to support undergraduate research in the SPARC program. The research will involve

the Catawba River and antibacterial resistant microbial populations. Gaston College is the only community college to ever be awarded funds from Women's Impact Fund.

- \$15,000 Grant to the Foundation - The Foundation for the Carolinas has awarded a \$15,000 grant to the Gaston College Foundation to purchase simulation equipment for the nursing program to use with Apprenticeship and Career Academy Partnerships.

E. SGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Watson welcomed Ms. Tyazia Herring to the meeting as the new Student Government Association representative on the Board. She will serve as the Student Government Association president for 2019-2020. Ms. Herring is working on obtaining an Associate in Science at Gaston College and plans to transfer to a four-year university to study social work.

Ms. Herring, SGA President, gave the following update on SGA activities since May 13, 2019. The report in its entirety can be found in the Board meeting packet.

- Student Leadership Development Program - SGA members, Clip Echendu and Tyazia Herring participated in the North Carolina Community College Student Leadership Development Program (SLDP) on June 2-7, 2019, at William Peace University.

Chair Watson commented that it would be exciting to see the many SGA activities and service projects planned to engage the students. He asked Ms. Herring about her plans after she completes her studies at Gaston College. She replied that she would like to attend UNCC to complete her Bachelor's degree in social work and then proceed on to attain her Master's degree in social work with the end goal to be a licensed clinical social worker. Chair Watson commented that the Board looked forward to getting to know her better and wished her a good year as SGA representative on the Board.

F. FACILITIES

1. 104 Alice Avenue, Belmont Property

104 Alice Avenue is property directly adjacent to the Kimbrell Campus that is also adjacent to an empty lot owned by the College. An aerial map of the site was provided and reviewed by the Trustees. There is currently a burned out house on the 0.48-acre lot.

The owner, Mr. Leslie Mustin, has approached the College's agent to assess our interest in purchasing the property. Real estate agent Leslie Dale is representing the College and has reported that Mr. Mustin is willing to sell the property for \$75,000, with the College also paying property tax and commission to our agent. The 2018 unpaid property tax bill is \$ 1,227.74 (plus interest) and a pro rata portion of the 2019 tax bill would be calculated at closing. The College would owe commission to our agent of approximately \$2,250 at closing. There would also be some incidental closing costs for attorney's fees, legal filings, and other incidentals.

If it is the desire of the Board to acquire this property, the acquisition must also be approved by the State Board and a Phase 1 Environmental Study is required. (A previous similar study for two properties cost \$2,600 in 2015.)

If the acquisition is desirable and approved, another future cost would be demolition of the burned out house, estimated at approximately \$9,400 to demolish the structure and leave the lot cleared, levelled, and over seeded. The total acquisition cost of this property is approximately \$80,000, plus the cost of an environmental study.

With the current growth taking place in the eastern part of Gaston County, the Board felt this acquisition comes at a good time. In the future, this property could be used to extend the Kimbrell Campus. Additionally, a comment was made that the Charlotte Mecklenburg Fire Department (CMFD) may have interest in using the building as a scheduled burn to train firemen. CMFD had recently completed burns in other counties; if so, there could be a savings as far as the demolition cost of the building is concerned.

Upon the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, Mr. Dancoff moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the acquisition of the property located at 104 Alice Avenue, Belmont, at an offer price of \$75,000, plus the cost of property taxes, attorney's fees, and commissions as noted. The motion carried.

2. Café Renovations

One of the most pressing campus needs identified by students during the Strategic Planning process was the development of collaborative learning spaces for small groups of students on campus.

In working with our informal project architect, space has been identified in the Café area that can be developed into four small group meeting spaces for students along the west wall of the Café, while maintaining the larger open area for student dining. It will require the relocation of the faculty/staff dining area. The food serving area will also be reconfigured during this renovation to accommodate a coffee shop/food service format.

A preliminary version of this plan was presented to the Student Government Association, Staff Senate, and Faculty Senate during the spring term, and they expressed their support for this project. Three renditions of the floor space were provided for the Trustees' review and information.

The total renovation cost of the Café is not expected to exceed \$350,000. An exact budget will be determined once the project goes to contractors for bid, with plans to award the contract to the low-cost bidder. It is recommended that excess fee receipts be used as a funding source for this student-focused renovation.

Upon the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, Mr. Dancoff moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve renovation of the Café to provide student collaborative learning spaces. The motion carried.

3. Food Service Vendor for Café

Another one of the most pressing campus needs identified by students, faculty and staff during the Strategic Planning process was the need for some type of food service on campus.

The Food Service Committee successfully located a vendor, and unanimously recommended that the College move forward with Mugshots Coffee & Tea. Mr. Reuben Silberman is the owner. He owns existing coffee shops in Belmont and south Charlotte operating under the Mugshots Coffee & Tea brand. With the approval of the Board Chair and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding, Mr. Silberman was invited to operate a Mugshots branch in the café on a trial basis from early March to the end of spring term in early May, 2019, from 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. weekdays, serving coffee and tea products and some breakfast and lunch offerings.

Based upon the success of the trial period and the interest of Mr. Silberman to continue, the College recommends a renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with Mugshots to cover fall 2019 and spring 2020. Mr. Silberman plans to expand his food offerings in the remodeled café space and obtain a county food service license to prepare food on site in addition to packaged food that was offered during the trial period.

Mr. Silberman has also been consulted regarding the café renovation plans to ensure we would be providing optimal kitchen and serving space design for a food vendor. The College will provide the facilities space for the vendor along with utility service. Mugshots is responsible for proper licensing, insurance, personnel, food service and cleaning of the space.

Chair Watson reminded the Board about the past attempts to provide food service, both in-house and privately, which resulted in a financial loss. He is optimistic that this new endeavor will be a viable solution in providing the students meals/snacks and a comfortable gathering area. If approved, he hopes the students, faculty and staff will support it.

Upon the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, Mr. Dancoff moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve Mugshots Coffee & Tea as the food service vendor for fall 2019 and spring 2020. The motion carried.

4. 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 with the current dry weather the contractor was able to catch up from the previous rain delays. The job trailer is on site. Installation of the bioretention pond, removal of the remaining site grubbing and trees, removal of unsuitable soils, and the excavation of Phase 1 footings and foundation reinforcements are complete. In the

next 30 days, installation of the storm drainage will be complete along with excavation and pouring of Phase 2 of the building footings, placement and finish of the slab on grade and Phase 1 of the masonry shear walls. Twenty percent of the contract work has been completed as of May 8, 2019, so the project is on schedule. This item was presented for information purposes only.

G. FINANCE

1. FY 2019-2021 State Budget Update

The North Carolina Senate released its 2019-21 budget on Tuesday, May 28, 2019.

There are notable differences between the Senate and the House versions of the budget.

The House budget was released on May 2, and included average salary increases of 4.8% for K-12 teachers, while the Senate budget calls for a 3.5% average teacher raise over the two-year budget period, excluding bonuses. (Veteran teachers would receive a bonus of up to \$1,000 annually.)

The House budget included a 1% salary increase for most state employees, effective January 1, 2020. The Senate budget calls for a 5% salary increase for most state employees over the two-year budget period; however, we have learned that the Senate budget only includes a 1% salary increase for each of the two years for community college and university employees. It is uncertain why higher education personnel are singled out and treated differently from other state employees.

The House proposed funding capital infrastructure improvements through a new bond referendum totaling \$1.9 billion, with \$200 million each going to the university system and the community college system. The Senate budget proposes a pay-as-you-go program for school capital improvements and repairs totaling \$4.8 billion over the next ten years. We have not received the proposed breakdown between K-12, university, and community colleges yet.

The Senate budget includes additional K-12 education funding for 100 new school psychologist positions and \$1.3 billion in additional spending for public education over the two years.

In addition to a larger salary increase, the Senate budget includes improved funding for the other community college system priorities, including reductions to the required college match for career coach funding based on tier of county, full funding for workforce development FTE parity and funding for four new multi-campus centers that have been approved for other schools. They have also included funding of \$10 Million nonrecurring each year for IT infrastructure funding.

Mr. Overcash added that the Senate and the House have identified their budget conferees. That is good news as Senator Harrington and Representative Saine, both of whom readily

support Gaston College, have been named as conferees on the Budget Conference Committee.

Mr. Overcash relayed to the Board that Dr. Skinner had raised an area of concern in regard to the differences in salary between community college employees and other State employees. Typically, in the past, the salary increase has been the same for all State employees. As it stands right now, community college employees would receive a 1% increase; however, other State employees would receive a 5% salary increase over two years. Mr. Overcash encouraged Trustees to email or call Senator Harrington or Representative Saine to thank them for their service and to let them know we would appreciate their assistance in leveling the gap between the community college employees' salary increase and the increase allotted for other State employees. Chair Watson added he, too, would really appreciate the advocacy of the Trustees in reaching out to the legislators in Gaston College's service area.

This item is presented for information purposes.

2. 2019-2020 County Budget Updates

Gaston County Budget Update

Gaston County Manager Earl Mathers presented his proposed FY 2019-2020 county budget to Commissioners at their May 28, 2019, meeting.

Gaston College had requested funding of \$5,585,769 for operations, which includes funding for two additional police officers and a communication specialist, funding for a 3% salary increase for county funded positions, and maintenance of at least the historical \$697k provided for capital funding.

Mr. Mathers' recommended budget fully funds the \$5,585,769 operating budget request for Gaston College and includes the historical \$697,219 in funding for our capital budget.

The recommended county budget includes a 2% Cost of Living salary increase and a 1% merit increase for county employees. The manager's budget included 10 new positions to support county growth. There is a recommended property tax decrease – from the current rate of \$.87 to \$.84 per \$100 of value.

Mr. Overcash reported that on June 11, 2019, there was a public hearing, and the Commissioners voted to accept the budget. He encouraged Trustees to thank Trustee Keigher, who is also a County Commissioner, for his advocacy of the College in this budget endeavor.

Lincoln County Budget Update

Lincoln County Manager Kelly Atkins presented his proposed FY 2019-20 county budget to Commissioners at their May 20, 2019, meeting.

Mr. Atkins had recommended partial funding of the College’s budget request, due to funding constraints:

	2019-20 Budget <u>Requested</u>	2019-20 Budget <u>Manager’s</u>	2018-19 Approved <u>Budget</u>	Percentage <u>Increase</u>
<u>Recommended</u>				
Operating	\$239,184	\$226,328	\$217,794	3.9%
Capital	50,000	30,000	30,000	0%

The County budget request includes 23 new positions to support county growth, including: public health - 4 school nurses and 1 health specialist, public safety – 3 detention officers and 1 tele-communicator, facilities -1 grounds and 2 building maintenance and public utilities - 3. Mr. Atkins did not announce a proposed salary increase percentage during his presentation. The manager’s budget recommends maintaining the current property tax rate of \$.611 per \$100 of value.

Mr. Overcash reported there was a public hearing on June 3, 2019, and the Commissioners voted to accept the budget.

3. Supplemental State Budget Allocation

Supplemental State Budget allocations received after the FY 2018-2019 State Budget was finalized.

#5 Customized Training	\$ 56,072
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4. Financial Reports

A summary of expenditures for FY 2018-2019 through April 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 reported that the NCACCT has continued to work with the legislature, the NCACCT staff and lobbyist, and the NCCCS Office to put forth a 2019-2020 budget.

He also reported that the NCACCT hosted a workshop for Executive Assistants who work as liaisons with their Presidents and Boards of Trustees with two goals in mind. First, it was an opportunity for Executive Assistants across the State to share information and get to know their counterparts. Secondly, it was an opportunity for the staff at the NCACCT office to meet the assistants and assist them with their duties handling issues related to their Presidents and Boards of Trustees. Mr. Vinson added that Dr. Skinner had provided a work session for the

assistants on "Dealing with Difficult People," and Ms. Dillon had participated on a panel as a veteran Executive Assistant to answer other assistants' questions. Dr. Watson thanked Mr. Vinson for his report.

I. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Nomination 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. Ross Bulla. Mr. Bulla is a nationally recognized expert in the areas of intellectual property protection, workplace security, and violence prevention. He is the founder of the Threadstone Group, Inc. in Denver, NC. Mr. Bulla is nominated to fill a one-year term.

Representative Jonathan Rhyne. Representative Rhyne is a partner of the Jonas Law Firm and serves on the board of directors for Carolina Trust Bank. He previously served in the North Carolina General Assembly as well as chairman of the Golden LEAF Foundation. Rep. Rhyne is nominated to fill a four-year term.

Mr. Chris Elmore. Mr. Elmore is a graduate of Gaston College and helped start AvidXchange in 2000, the ninth largest fintech company in the country with more than 1200 employees and a value of \$1.4 billion. Mr. Elmore is nominated to fill a two-year term.

Mr. Tim Efird. Mr. Efird is the Chairman of Standard Distributors in Gastonia and has been actively involved in numerous organizations in Gaston County, including the United Way and the Community Foundation. Mr. Efird is nominated to fill a four-year term.

The Gaston College Foundation Board requested that the individuals mentioned above be approved to serve terms beginning July 1, 2019. Several trustees commented they personally knew the nominees and agreed their experience, knowledge, and backgrounds will enrich the Foundation Board.

Chair Watson entertained a motion that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Mr. Ross Bulla, Representative Jonathan Rhyne, Mr. Chris Elmore, and Mr. Tim Efird to serve on the Gaston College Foundation Board of Directors as stated above. Sheriff Cloninger made the motion; Judge Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. President's 25th Anniversary / Retirement Gala

Chair Watson called on Ms. Janie Peak and Ms. Suzanne Riley to update the Board as to preparations for the President's 25th Anniversary / Retirement Gala. Ms. Peak relayed that the Gala Committee had met twice and preparations are well under way. The event will be held Saturday, September 21, 2019, at 6 p.m. This will be a no-cost event; however, invitees will be requested to participate in the Dr. Patricia Skinner Scholarship Fund, which

will be endowed that night. The guest list currently has 300 individuals, with 165 invitations to be sent. A save-the-date card has been prepared and is ready to go later this week. The menu, beverages, hors d'oeuvres and program have been discussed; and a Committee meeting on June 24, at the Gaston Country Club should firm up the logistical details. This will be a "cocktail attire" event, with a main emphasis to highlight Gaston College, its students and its growth under Dr. Skinner's leadership, concluding with a champagne toast. Ms. Peak encouraged trustees to mark the date on their calendars.

3. Mr. Carl Stewart

Chair Watson informed the Board that the Gaston College Attorney, Mr. Carl Stewart, had been named to the State of North Carolina Ethics Commission. He was appointed by Speaker of the House Tim Moore to represent Gaston County. He will serve until December 31, 2020. The Board congratulated Mr. Stewart.

4. Fall NCACCT, August 21-23, 2019

Chair Watson reminded Trustees that the fall NCACCT Leadership Conference will be coming up August 21-23, 2019, which is a little earlier than usual. The meeting will be in Wilmington. Ms. Dillon will notify trustees when registration is open and alert trustees who may have training requirements due. He asked the trustees to hold the dates on their calendars.

5. Confirmation of Nominating Committee for 2019-2020 Board Officers

At the May Board Meeting, Chair Watson had announced that Mr. James Smith, Mr. John Dancoff, and Ms. Natalie Tindol will serve on the Nominating Committee for 2019-2020 Board Officers. This gives them additional time over the summer to meet and determine their recommendations, which will be brought forward at the August Board of Trustees meeting.

6. Presidential Search Committee

In doing a little research, Chair Watson had learned that three different colleges had been able to conclude their presidential search in approximately six months, understanding that each college is unique and different. Although the Board does not meet in July, he wanted to name a preliminary Presidential Search Committee of three individuals that could possibly begin some work with the College attorney and Mr. Baney during the next few weeks. Then when the new Board chair is elected in August, he/she can round out the Committee with additional members and truly begin the work in earnest. With that said, he relayed that he had asked Ms. Jennifer Davis, Sheriff Alan Cloninger, and Mr. Tom Keigher to serve on the Committee and begin the necessary work. He noted that selection of the next Gaston College president will be a Board decision, but the Committee will provide the preliminary work.

7. County Budget

The Gaston County Board of Commissioners recently held two meetings that concerned Gaston College 2019-2020 budget, one in May and one in June. Chair Watson thanked Mr. Keigher for his help as the Gaston County Commissioners fully approved Gaston College's operational budget ask for 2019-2020. He also thanked the trustees who had attended the meetings in support of the College's budget request. Ms. Riley added that she had taken a moment after the meeting to thank the Commissioners for their work and felt her comments were well received. Chair Watson further commented that he hoped the trustees will continue to build on their own relationships, not only with the Commissioners but also with the legislators as relationships do matter.

Chair Watson also noted the change in County Manager as Mr. Earl Mathers had retired and Dr. Kim Eagle was selected to fill the position. Dr. Eagle is a committed public servant who worked for the City of Charlotte for 24 years; she will bring a great wealth of experience. It will be important for the College administration and Trustees to get to know Dr. Eagle and establish a working rapport so she is aware of the many benefits Gaston College brings to Gaston County's communities through its educational opportunities.

8. Thank you to Dr. Ragan and Judge Collins

Chair Watson took a moment to recognize Dr. Jim Ragan and Judge Craig Collins as this was going to be their last official Board meeting as their terms were expiring June 30, 2019. He noted that Dr. Ragan had been on the Board for twelve years, and Judge Collins had been on the Board for four years. He thanked them both for their service and commitment to Gaston College and the Board of Trustees. Although they would not be in an official capacity, he hoped they would continue to be an ambassador for Gaston College in the community. He invited both of them back to the August 26 Board of Trustees meeting so the Board can officially thank them for all their work and honor their service. The Board gave them a round of applause.

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Watson invited the Board to review the list of upcoming meetings and events. He hopes the trustees will find time to attend some of the upcoming activities. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on August 26, 2019.

K. AJOURNMENT

Chair Watson entertained a motion by Ms. Riley to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Dancoff seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen D. Campbell, Secretary

Dr. Jim Watson, Chair

Mary Ellen Dillon, Recording Secretary

(College Seal)