

**Minutes of the  
Gaston College  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Robinson Classroom Building, Room 126  
June 21, 2021**

**Members Present:** Sheriff Alan Cloninger, Secretary  
Mr. John Dancoff, Chair  
Ms. Jennifer Davis, Vice Chair  
Ms. Resa Hoyle  
Mr. Steve Huffstetler  
Ms. Janie Peak  
Ms. Suzanne Riley  
Mr. Tim Smith  
Ms. Julie Stroupe  
Ms. Natalie Tindol  
Mr. Randy Vinson  
Ms. Najira Davis, SGA President

Dr. John Hauser, President

**Members Absent:** Mr. Steve Hall  
Ms. Iris Hopper  
Mr. Tom Keigher

**Others Present:** Mr. Todd Baney, Ms. Tracy Barrett, Mr. Sam Buff, Ms. Sherry Carpenter, Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Ms. Mary Ellen Dillon, Ms. Tiffany Faro, Mr. Josh Guffey, Ms. Guyann Howe, Ms. Renita Johnson, Ms. Kimber Lail, Ms. Jamie Lisi, Dr. John McHugh, Chief Talmadge McInnis, Ms. Kimberly Norwood, Mr. David Nutt, Ms. Julie Ostrowski, Mr. Calvin Shaw, Dr. Audrey Sherrill, Mr. Russell Smyre, Mr. Darren Stewart, Ms. Gina Straga, Mr. Luke Upchurch, Ms. Linda Vespa, Ms. Tanisha Williams, Dr. Heather Woodson; and Mr. Carl Stewart, College Attorney.

**Chair Dancoff called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was present for the meeting.**

- **Invocation – Sheriff Cloninger**
- **Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder**

Chair Dancoff reminded Trustees of the ethics requirements of public servants and requested they identify any conflicts of interest or appearance of conflicts of interest present. No conflicts were identified.

**A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Dancoff asked if there were any changes, additions, or corrections to the agenda. None were identified.

Sheriff Cloninger moved to approve the agenda; Ms. Hoyle seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 24, 2021, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING.**

Chair Dancoff presented the Minutes of the May 24, 2021, Board of Trustees Meeting and asked if there were any additions or corrections. No changes were identified.

Ms. Peak moved to approve the Minutes of the May 24, 2021, Board of Trustees Meeting; Mr. Huffstetler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**C. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**1. Welcome Guests and Introduce New Employees**

Dr. Hauser welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Mr. Calvin Shaw, Faculty Senate President, and Mr. Darren Stewart, Staff Senate President. He also indicated that guests were present related to the Abbey Creek Greenway that they would meet later.

Dr. Hauser invited Dr. Sherrill, Mr. Baney (for Mr. Smith), and Dr. Woodson to introduce the new employees in their Divisions.

Dr. Sherrill, VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, introduced:  
Mr. Josh Guffey, Academic Advisor

Mr. Baney (for Mr. Smith, VP for Economic and Workforce Development), introduced:  
Ms. Kimber Lail, Program Specialist-Customized Training

Dr. Heather Woodson, VP for Academic Affairs, introduced:  
Ms. Kimberly Norwood, Administrative Assistant/Welcome Desk Receptionist-Lincoln Campus  
Ms. Megan Turney, Instructor Nursing-9-Month (Not in attendance.)

**2. Recognition of Ms. Najira Davis, SGA President**

The following resolution was presented for adoption recognizing the leadership of SGA President Najira Davis.

**Gaston College Board Of Trustees  
Resolution  
Honoring the Service of Ms. Najira Davis**

**WHEREAS**, the Gaston College Board of Trustees wishes to express its appreciation to Ms. Najira Davis for serving as President of the Student Government Association and as a member of the Board of Trustees during the 2020-2021 academic year; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Davis accomplished all goals established for the 2020-2021 year as President, which strengthened the Student Government Association and benefited the students of Gaston College; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Davis served the Student Government Association and Gaston College with loyalty and dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Davis served as a role model for Gaston College students with her vision, enthusiasm, leadership abilities, and personal dedication to the group's success; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Davis was selected as the Outstanding Graduate for the Associate in Arts program for 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Davis gave generously and unselfishly of her time and talents to lead the Student Government Association during these unprecedented times with dedication and concern for fellow students and college needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Davis represented Gaston College and the Student Government Association with professionalism and passion while executing her duties as President;

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**Be it resolved that:** The Board of Trustees of Gaston College hereby gives formal expression of its gratitude to Ms. Najira Davis, and directs that this Resolution be placed in the minutes of the Board of Trustees and a copy be given to Ms. Davis.

Respectfully,

John Dancoff, Chair  
May 24, 2021

Alan Cloninger, Secretary

Chair Dancoff asked Ms. Davis what she was going to do in the future. She replied that she would be attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to study Psychology and hoped to continue on for a Master's degree. Ms. Davis thanked the Board for the wonderful opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees; she felt it had taught her so much, and she had gained new leadership skills as a result.

**Chair Dancoff entertained a motion by Ms. Stroupe to adopt the resolution recognizing the leadership of SGA President Najira Davis; Ms. Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**3. Recognition of Service to the Board of Trustees**

Chair Dancoff asked Ms. Suzanne Riley to come forward.

**Ms. Suzanne Riley**

Ms. Riley was appointed by the Gaston County Board of Education to serve on the Gaston College Board of Trustees in 2017. She has served for four years, with the last year more difficult for everyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic and technology challenges implemented and met to keep the College moving forward.

Since her appointment, Suzanne has served one year as a member of the Board's Campus Affairs Committee, one year on the Facilities Committee, and two years on the Finance Committee, this last year as Chair of the Finance Committee. Also, she served on the Gala Committee when Dr. Skinner retired and was involved in the search and selection of the College's new president.

Chair Dancoff stated that Ms. Riley's work as a Trustee upheld and strengthened the College's Mission to provide flexible, high-quality, and accessible learning opportunities for students, and the College was grateful to her for her guidance during her tenure on the Gaston College Board of Trustees.

Chair Dancoff added how impressed he was that Ms. Riley, as Chair of the Finance Committee, read every line of the budgets and rather than defer to someone else to present the topics had presented them herself!

Chair Dancoff then asked Ms. Tindol to come forward.

**Ms. Natalie Tindol**

Ms. Tindol was appointed by the Governor's Office in 2017 to serve on the Gaston College Board of Trustees. She has served for four years. She, too, endured the challenges brought upon the College due to the pandemic.

Since Ms. Tindol's appointment, she has served as a valued member of the Board's Campus Affairs Committee. She also served as a member of the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee for Board Officers, participated in the selection of Gaston College's new president, and approved the Quality Enhancement Plan for the College's current Reaccreditation effort.

Chair Dancoff stated that Ms. Tindol's work had laid a foundation for fairness through the policy review process and paved a way for new and exciting opportunities for Gaston College's students with the many new programs approved. The Board expressed its gratitude to her for her dedication and guidance as she had bolstered the College's Mission and the Gaston College Board of Trustees in many ways.

Ms. Tindol thanked the Board and noted that she had supported the College in the past, but now considered herself a "raving fan" as she had had the opportunity to see everything the College did to assist students and the community.

Ms. Riley and Ms. Tindol were presented a parting gift from the Board of Trustees.

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

Dr. Hauser's activities, since the May 24, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting, were provided in the Board packet. Also, in the Board packet were reports from the Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and Vice Presidents/Administrators for Administrative Services; Economic and Workforce Development; Finance, Operations, and Facilities; the Foundation; and the Textile Technology Center.

CaroMont Health Park Opening - The CaroMont Health Park (formerly the FUSE District Stadium) opened for its first game on May 27, 2021.

2021 Lincoln County Education Summit/Workshop - The Lincoln Economic Development Association and the Industrial Managers Association invited Dr. Hauser to attend this Education Summit/Workshop on June 3. The objective of the workshop was to bring educators, business, industry, health care, and our county officials together to help prepare for our "workforce of the future".

NC Economic Development Association (NCEDA) Annual Conference - The NCEDA Annual Conference took place in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, from June 8-10, 2021. One of this year's speakers was the Secretary of North Carolina Commerce, Machel Baker Sanders, who had also come to Gaston College for an EDC Economic Announcement related to Gaston County on June, 15, 2021.

Good News! - Gaston College is ranked by Intelligent.com as among the best online community colleges in the United States for 2021. The Seattle-based resource for online degree rankings and higher education planning analyzed 286 schools and 333 education programs. Only 59 schools made it to the final list. Gaston College was recognized as the best school for accelerated classes, and it ranked 38<sup>th</sup> overall. The rankings were announced on May 4. Dr. Hauser made a point to congratulate the College's faculty and staff for all their hard work.

#### **E. SGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Najira Davis, SGA President, relayed to the Board some of the SGA members' reflections for the year.

- Being a member of SGA has been a priceless experience for me. There is no amount of money or training that could have prepared me for the challenges and obstacles I faced as a student leader during a worldwide pandemic. It has been a great honor to learn from my SGA advisors and campus mentors. I have learned to lead by example. It is one thing to plan an event and say you will be there; it's completely different to actually show up and actively engage in the event. Accountability, follow-through, and effective teamwork is key.
- SGA opened my eyes to what is possible here at Gaston College, and I was able to learn more about myself than I could have ever imagined. I realized how poor my time management skills were but through attending various workshops and being challenged,

I was able to become more organized. I gained a love for helping others and understanding what it means to be inclusive when making decisions that impact all students.

- When I first became a part of SGA, I did not see myself as a leader. I barely had any self-confidence, and I looked at everything with a negative attitude. Throughout my leadership journey, I gained a handful of leadership skills that helped me to gain more of a positive attitude. I learned the importance of charisma, flexibility, effective management skills, and teamwork.
- I have acquired more confidence in my leadership since becoming involved with SGA. Prior to SGA, I might have known how to lead, but I did not know if I should. I also knew what needed to be done, but I was not confident enough to do it myself. I often depended on others to lead. I am now proud to say, if something needs to be done, I am more than willing to lead.

Trustee J. Davis commented that it was inspiring to hear the testimonies from the students about SGA. Chair Dancoff thanked Ms. Davis for her report.

## **F. CAMPUS AFFAIRS**

Chair Dancoff called on Ms. Jennifer Davis, Chair of the Campus Affairs Committee, to bring forward the items for consideration. The Committee had met at 3 p.m., prior to the Board meeting, and had vetted the items. Chair Davis called on Dr. Woodson to present the two items.

### **1. Proposed SACSCOC Policies and Substantive Change Policy 5-46**

In January 2021, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) adopted a new policy related to Substantive Change. Substantive change is defined by SACSCOC as a significant modification or expansion of the nature or scope of an accredited institution, such as adding or terminating educational programs, adding or removing instructional sites, or a change in institutional mission. Due to the multiple changes in the SACSCOC's Substantive Change policy, as well as from recommendations from SACSCOC personnel, the College is proposing modifications to Institutional Policy 5-46, SACSCOC Policies and Substantive Change.

Dr. Woodson added that the College's SACSCOC VP liaison recommended these changes be immediately implemented so as to be effective when the SACSCOC site visit for the College's reaccreditation takes place in the fall.

**Upon the recommendation of the Campus Affairs Committee, Ms. Davis moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the proposed SACSCOC Policies and Substantive Change Policy 5-46 as presented.**

As this motion was brought from Committee, it would not need a second. Chair Dancoff inquired if there was any discussion needed about this policy. There was none.

**The motion carried.**

Campus Affairs Committee Chair Davis asked Dr. Woodson to present the next item.

**2. Proposed Professional Licensure Program Disclosures Policy 4-26**

Gaston College is expected to comply with all applicable policies of the United States Department of Education (USDOE). One such policy relates to the disclosure of professional licensure information to prospective and current students. Professional licensure refers to programs of study where students must complete and pass a state or national certification exam prior to beginning professional practice. Examples of programs requiring professional licensure include emergency medical science and nursing.

According to USDOE policy, out-of-state students must be made aware of professional licensure information prior to enrollment or before any financial obligation is made to the College. As such, the College has developed a process to communicate this information to students via the Institutional website and via oral and written correspondence from the College.

Dr. Woodson added that this policy ensures that out-of-state students are aware that the program in which they are studying requires a professional exam or license in order to practice. It also requires the College to let students know about licensure requirements outside of North Carolina that may be applicable to them. The work on this policy was a combined effort of the Student Affairs, Economic and Workforce Development, and Academic Affairs divisions.

**Upon the recommendation of the Campus Affairs Committee, Ms. Davis moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the proposed professional Licensure Program Disclosures Policy 4-26 as presented.**

As this motion was brought from Committee, it would not need a second. Chair Dancoff inquired if there was any discussion needed about this program. There was none.

**The motion carried.**

Committee Chair Davis thanked the staff for their work on these policies.

**G. FACILITIES**

Chair Dancoff called on Facilities Chair Cloninger to present the Facilities Items for review. Chair Cloninger then asked Ms. Tracy Barrett to assist as the items were reviewed.

**1. Abbey Creek Greenway, Belmont – Public Access/Maintenance**

The City of Belmont is currently in the construction document design phase for the Abbey Creek Greenway, an approximately 1.2 mile, 10' wide accessible multi-use (bike and

pedestrian) paved trail spanning from Park Street to E. Catawba Street. Abbey Creek Greenway is part of the overall Carolina Thread Trail network.

The City is requesting Gaston College's support of the main trail/greenway alignment in order to move forward with next steps to finalize design and easements. Belmont is also seeking conceptual approval for the location of a public access/maintenance, which is proposed south of the creek on Gaston College's Kimbrell Campus property.

The City of Belmont would also like to share potential future pedestrian bridge/creek crossing connection options for future opportunities where Kimbrell Campus could connect to the main trail/greenway. Either connection option would allow students a direct connection to the amenities nearby, including Kevin Loftin Park and the City's future recreation center.

Ms. Tiffany Faro, Associate Planner for the City of Belmont, and Ms. Gina Straga, from ESP Associates, Inc., came before the Board to provide a PowerPoint presentation, which contained additional information about the Abbey Creek Greenway. A copy of the presentation will be maintained with the Board packet archive. The Trustees asked several questions that Ms. Faro and Ms. Straga answered to their satisfaction.

**Upon the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, Sheriff Cloninger moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the Abbey Creek Greenway Public Access/Maintenance.**

As this motion came from Committee, it would not need a second. Chair Dancoff asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

**The motion carried.**

Committee Chair Cloninger then asked Dr. Hauser to discuss with the Board the next two items, which concerned athletics.

## **2. Sims Legion Park MOU with the City of Gastonia**

Dr. Hauser has had several meetings and discussions with City Manager, Michael Peoples, and other city staff to contemplate and negotiate an agreement with formal terms and conditions concerning the use of Sims Legion Park for Gaston College's athletics programs.

The Trustees reviewed a preliminary MOU, which signals the beginning of the negotiations between the City of Gastonia and Gaston College for a formal agreement. Dr. Hauser requests the Board grant him authority to negotiate the terms of the Sims Legion Park MOU with the City of Gastonia on Gaston College's behalf. Dr. Hauser also provided a signed resolution from the City of Gastonia approving creation of an MOU for use of Sims Legion Park for Gaston College Athletics.

Dr. Hauser will bring a final Sims Legion Park MOU to the Board for approval.

**Upon the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, Sheriff Cloninger moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees grant Dr. Hauser authority to negotiate the terms of the Sims Legion Park MOU with the City of Gastonia.**

As this motion came from Committee, it would not need a second. Chair Dancoff asked if there was any discussion. A question was asked as to who would have advertising rights to the Sims Legion park wall. Dr. Hauser answered that Gaston College would have those rights.

**The motion passed.**

### **3. Sims Legion Park Turf Proposal**

Gaston College proposes to partner with the City of Gastonia, Gaston County Schools, Gaston County, and the Perfect Game organization in an effort to provide needed artificial turf for the Sims Legion Park. Currently, there are many issues with the playing field that having the turf would rectify. The cost is approximately \$900,000. Dr. Hauser requests approval from the Board to partner with the above entities to negotiate a one-third investment in the artificial turf proposal. There would be 0% interest on the funding for eight years.

Dr. Hauser brought large poster-board pictures of the ballfield at Sims Legion Park in its current condition to the meeting. He explained that there are bare spots, water drainage issues, and other maintenance issues, which means the field does not meet NJCAA playing standards. He also had posters of what it would look like with turf, expanded parking, and other fields for additional sports programs. The field would be branded with Gaston College and other Perfect Game traveling teams. The revenue stream for the game would go to whichever home-team was playing. Dr. Hauser sees the value of partnering with the City of Gastonia and Perfect Game to purchase the turf rather than trying to build a completely new park for \$3 million on Gaston College's Campus.

**Upon the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, Sheriff Cloninger moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve a one-third investment, not to exceed \$300,000, earmarked from County Capital funds, for the Sims Legion Park Turf Proposal.**

As this motion came from Committee, it would not need a second. Chair Dancoff asked if there was any discussion. A question was asked about whether a commitment had been obtained from the Perfect Game organization for the turf; Dr. Hauser replied, yes. The City has also committed to the purchase of the turf. Gaston College will also have first rights to schedule its games and events; Dr. Hauser was encouraged to get this statement in writing in the MOU with the Sims Legion Park. As for concession stands, SGA may possibly be contracted to help run the concession stands. Another question was asked about selling alcoholic beverages; that topic would need to be explored as the answer was not known.

**The motion carried.**

#### **4. Capital Reports**

##### **CAM Electrical Upgrade**

Because the project is under \$500,000, three informal bids were solicited for the project. The lowest bid was received from Dallas Electrical for \$156,645. Project work has begun.

Mr. Smyre added that all of the panels and conduit are installed, and they are waiting for additional materials to arrive. The project is 59% spent and coming along very well.

##### **Lincoln Campus Space Renovation**

The college has initiated the project description with the community college system and submitted the 3-1 capital improvement project approval form, which was approved by the State Board on September 18. An architect's contract dated September 30 was signed and returned to State Construction Office and NCCCS on October 7. Schematic design and design development documents will be submitted to State Construction, and we are now in the construction documents phase.

This project is in its final phase of design, and the College should be able to go out for bids in 2-3 weeks.

##### **College Parking Lot "L"**

The steam lines have been repaired under parking Lot "L", and it is now open. The contractor does need to come back to do some adjustments on the sidewalks.

##### **Campus Moves**

There have recently been several department/office moves to other buildings that the Facilities area has handled, many of which required various logistical arrangements and layout adjustments. They are almost all complete.

##### **Early College Medical High School**

Most of the classrooms for the Early College Medical High School in the CET building are ready for students in the fall. However, the cafeteria for the students, which will be in Myers Center 160, still needs some flooring, electrical for microwaves, and plumbing work for its serving kitchen. It should be ready soon.

##### **Sign Project**

The Sign project is coming along well. Both sites for the new signs will need electrical, which they are working to complete.

##### **Grounds, Tree Maintenance**

On Campus, several older trees have been removed and the grounds spruced up for spring/summer. Ms. Barrett complimented the Grounds crew.

These items were presented for informational purposes; no action was necessary.

## **H. FINANCE**

Chair Dancoff asked Ms. Riley to present the Finance Items for review.

### **1. FY 2021-2022 State Budget update**

Governor Roy Cooper released a recommended budget on March 24 that includes a 5% salary increase and a \$1,000 one-time bonus for employees and a 2% salary increase for retirees in support of improving pay for state employees and providing a substantial cost of living raise for retirees.

The NCCCS State Board reviewed the 2021 consensus budget priorities on March 16. The priorities are endorsed by the State Board of Community Colleges, the NC Association of Community College Presidents and the NC Association of Community College Trustees. Priorities include:

- Five-percent (5%) salary increase for community college employees.
- Provide one-time funds to maintain budget stability for colleges which have experienced enrollment declines due to Covid-19 and allow funds to remain available through June 30, 2023.
- Appropriate funding to upgrade the IT system serving all 58 colleges.
- Provide for 9 regional positions to assist colleges in preventing and responding to cyberattacks. Funds will also provide professional expertise for a security engineering and technical assistance plan and to implement the plan across the entire System.

After the joint session in May, House and Senate leaders are at a stalemate over the budget.

This item was presented for information purposes.

### **2. FY 2021-2022 County Budget Updates**

Updates related to the FY 2021-2022 budgets for Gaston and Lincoln counties follow.

#### 2021-22 Gaston County Budget Update

The Gaston County budget was included in the Finance Committee agenda in March. The Board of Trustees approved the budget on March 22. The budget was submitted to Gaston County on April 1.

The County Manager presented the 2021-22 Recommended Budget at a special meeting to the Board of Commissioners on May 25th. Dr. Kim Eagle recommended the following to the Commissioners:

	2021-22 Budget <u>Requested</u>	2021-22 Budget Manager's <u>Recommendation</u>	2020-21 Approved <u>Budget</u>	Percentage <u>Increase</u>
Operating	\$5,987,257	\$5,618,062	\$5,576,363	7.37%
Capital	697,219	697,219	697,219	0%

The recommendation does not include the 7% salary increase and expected benefits rate increases. The budget will be adopted on June 8th. President Hauser and Shelly Alman plan to attend this meeting.

2021-22 Lincoln County Budget Update

Dr. John Hauser, Dr. John McHugh, Ms. Shelly Alman, Board Chair John Dancoff met with County Manager Kelly Atkins and his staff on Wednesday, Feb. 10th, to discuss the 2021-22 Gaston College budget request.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Atkins indicated that he had not planned to fund our entire request due to funding constraints, but after a lengthy discussion about the new programs Gaston College is bringing to the Lincoln Campus, he recommends partial funding as follows to the Commissioners:

	2021-22 Budget <u>Requested</u>	2021-22 Budget Manager's <u>Recommendation</u>	2020-21 Approved <u>Budget</u>	Percentage <u>Increase</u>
Operating	\$274,044	\$269,454	\$259,954	3.7%
Capital	50,000	30,000	30,000	0%

Mr. Atkins will recommend funding the retirement and health insurance increases (5,057) and a little less than half of the funding for the security camera and PA System additions for the new Senior Center space (4,443).

A public hearing was held on June 7th to approve the FY 2021-2022 budget.

This item is presented for informational purposes; no action was needed.

**3. Supplemental State Budget Allocation**

Following is the Supplemental State Budget Allocation received after the FY 2020-2021 State Budget was finalized.

#5 Customized Training	\$65,844
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This Item was presented for informational purposes; no action was taken.

#### **4. Financial Reports**

A summary of expenditures for FY 2020-2021 through May 31, 2021, for State, Gaston, and Lincoln operating budgets and proprietary accounts in comparison to the previous year was provided for the Board's review and information.

Chair Dancoff thanked Ms. Riley for presenting the Finance items for the meeting.

#### **I. REPORT FROM NCACCT**

Mr. Vinson relayed to the Trustees that the NCACCT lobbyist and staff are continuing to work with the General Assembly on next year's budget.

He also relayed to the Trustees that the fall 2021 NCACCT Leadership Seminar would be held in person, in Wilmington, at the Ballast Hotel, and information would be coming out soon related to that.

Chair Dancoff thanked Mr. Vinson for his report.

#### **J. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **1. Approval of Foundation Board of Directors Nominees**

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

##### **Mr. John Azar- New Appointment**

An alumnus of Gaston College, Mr. Azar is the Executive Vice President of MACC Venture Partners, directing strategic development and growth. In 2019 he launched a new capital advisory and consulting firm, Peak 15 Capital, to help other CRE operators and sponsors with their capital stack. Mr. Azar has a history of success in investment management, institutional sales and distribution, and commercial banking and lending. Mr. Azar is nominated to serve a four-year term.

##### **Mr. Chris Elmore- Reappointment**

An alumnus of Gaston College and a long-time supporter, Mr. Elmore started AvidXchange in 2000. AvidXchange is a \$1.4 billion fintech company with 1000+ employees. In addition to his success at AvidXchange, Mr. Elmore is an accomplished author of eight books and countless articles. He has also served as Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at UNC Charlotte and Queens University. Mr. Elmore is nominated to serve a four-year term.

##### **Mr. David Lee- New Appointment**

Mr. David Lee is the retired plant manager at the Robert Bosch Tool Corporation in Lincolnton. During his time at Bosch, Mr. Lee was involved in the Apprenticeship 321 partnership at Gaston College and has been a strong advocate for the College's

partnerships with local industry. Mr. Lee has also been involved with the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the Lincoln Economic Development Administration. Mr. Lee is nominated to serve a four-year term.

**Dr. Johnathan Williams- New Appointment**

Dr. Williams graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine in 1986. He works in Gastonia, NC, and specializes in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics and Internal Medicine. Dr. Williams is affiliated with CaroMont Health Regional Medical Center. Dr. Williams is nominated to serve a four-year term.

The Gaston College Foundation Board requests that the individuals mentioned above be approved to serve terms beginning on July 1, 2021.

**Chair Dancoff moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the appointments of Mr. John Azar, Mr. David Lee, and Dr. Johnathan Williams, and the reappointment of Mr. Chris Elmore, to serve on the Gaston College Foundation Board of Directors beginning July 1, 2021; Sheriff Cloninger seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Mr. Upchurch relayed that the new members would be replacing Mr. Steve Campbell, Mr. Greg Botner, and Ms. Liz Sumner, whose terms had expired.

**2. Gaston College Foundation Operating Agreement**

The Gaston College Foundation, Inc. (Foundation) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. The Foundation is organized and operated exclusively to generate, receive, hold, invest, manage, and allocate funds for the advancement, achievement, and support of the educational and cultural programs and services of Gaston College (College). The purpose of the proposed operating agreement is to formalize and affirm the coordination between the College and the Foundation to advance the College's mission. The proposed agreement was approved by the Foundation Board of Directors on June 9, 2021, to replace the previous agreement entered into on July 15, 2011.

Mr. Upchurch clarified that this was an effort to update the terminology from the agreement that was written in 2009, add topics relevant to 2021 (such as the pandemic), and list the general responsibilities of the College and the Foundation and their relationship. The document had been vetted by the Foundation Board of Directors and the College Attorney, Mr. Carl Stewart.

**Chair Dancoff moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the Operating Agreement between Gaston College and the Gaston College Foundation, Inc. as presented. Ms. Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### **3. Board Meeting Dates and Time for FY 2021-2022**

Chair Dancoff presented a draft of the proposed Board of Trustees meeting dates for FY 2021-2022. He had sent the Trustees an informal survey asking them for feedback related to changing the meeting time on the proposed dates from 4 p.m. to 3 p.m. The earlier meeting time would allow some Trustees, who are members of other boards, a window in which they could attend both meetings. Most Trustees were fine with the earlier time; however, a few concerns were raised. Chair Dancoff concluded that the Board would try the earlier meeting time for the next year. The meeting time could be addressed again next year if difficulties did arise with the new time.

### **4. Celebration/Welcome for Dr. Hauser**

Chair Dancoff relayed that everyone had enjoyed the Celebration/Welcome for Dr. Hauser, on June 3. He thanked Ms. Janie Peak and Mr. Riley for their work in coordinating the event.

### **5. Fall NCACCT**

Registration for the Fall NCACCT has not opened yet; however, it will be an in-person event, in Wilmington, at the Ballast Hotel. Ms. Dillon will send the Trustees registration information as soon as its released.

### **6. Board Appointments**

Ms. Suzanne Riley and Ms. Natalie Tindol will be leaving the Board as their terms are expiring. The College will wait to hear about appointments from the Governor's Office and the Gaston County Board of Education to replace them. Mr. Vinson is also up for reappointment, and the College should know if he is reappointed June 22, 2021.

### **7. President Stith Visit**

President Stith will visit Gaston College on Tuesday, June 29. The event will include lunch and a presentation with the Trustees. Chair Dancoff asked the Trustees to be sure to send Ms. Dillon their lunch order from McAlister's Deli for that day.

### **8. Upcoming Events**

Chair Dancoff listed some dates for College/local events of which he felt they would want to be aware:

- July 24, 6:00 – 10:00P, Relay For Life of Lincoln and Gaston County – Gaston College Bell Tower
- September 22 – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Gaston College Athletics Scholarship Golf Tournament – Verdict Ridge Golf Course
- October 2 – Inaugural "Stampede for Students" 5K run / 2K walk – Gaston College Campus

**K. AJOURNMENT**

Chair Dancoff asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There was none.

**Chair Dancoff moved to adjourn the meeting; Sheriff Cloninger seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Chair Dancoff adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sheriff Alan Cloninger, Secretary**

**Mr. John Dancoff, Chair**

**Mary Ellen Dillon, Recording Secretary**

**(College Seal)**