

**MINUTES OF THE  
GASTON COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES RETREAT  
Gaston Country Club  
February 10, 2023**

**Members Present:** Judge Jesse Caldwell, III  
Mr. Alan Cloninger  
Mr. John Dancoff, Chair  
Mr. Jonathan Fletcher  
Dr. Shawnya Gore  
Mr. Steve Hall  
Ms. Iris Hopper  
Ms. Resa Hoyle  
Mr. Steve Huffstetler  
Mr. Tom Keigher  
Ms. Janie Peak  
Mr. Tim Smith  
Ms. Julie Stroupe  
Mr. Randy Vinson

Dr. John Hauser

**Members Absent:** Ms. Sidney Hare, SGA President

**Others Present:** Ms. Shelly Alman, Mr. Todd Baney, Ms. Tonia Broome, Ms. Jasmine Cox, Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Ms. Rebekah Ferguson, Ms. Guyann Howe, Ms. Andrea James, Mr. Mack Millen, Mr. Greg Smith, Mr. Luke Upchurch, Ms. Mary Beth Wortham, and Mr. Carl Stewart, College Attorney.

- **Chair Dancoff called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.**
- **Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder**

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

**I. Welcome**

Chair Dancoff welcomed everyone to the Retreat and asked Mr. Randy Vinson for the invocation.

After the invocation, Chair Dancoff gave an update on his son Adam who has been in a progressive ICU unit and hopefully will move forward to Rehab.

Dr. Hauser called the Trustees attention to several documents. The first, a two-page document, *The Economic Impact of Gaston College, pg. 1, and Contributors to Gaston College's Impact, pg. 2*, found in their packet. At our last Board meeting, requests were made for an information sheet to use when talking with our local delegation. This document provided information on how the College proposes to move forward from financial and student development standpoints.

The other document, *Gaston County Budget Request*, was recently presented to County Manager, Dr. Eagle. The cumulative shortfall of \$1,000,027 with an additional \$176,405 increase, totaling \$1,181,432 was requested along with the outdated boilers-special project of \$3.2 million. Dr. Hauser emphasized Gaston College's size by FTE is ranked number 11 out of 58 NC community colleges. However, Gaston County's support per budgeted FTE is \$1,237 and ranked 27 out of 58 NC community colleges.

Dr. Hauser also shared the booklet, *Gaston College Legislative Requests 2023-2025*, which he presented in Raleigh to our Legislators on Wednesday, February 8. He stressed the significance of Gaston College's economic impact of \$266.9 million to our service area.

The three Legislative requests are (1) Fiber Innovation Center (FIC) non-recurring (NR) funds of \$5,000,000; (2) Kimbrell Campus – Textile Technology Center (TTC) recurring funds (R) of \$500,000; and (3) Regional Health, Wellness, and Simulation Center non-recurring (NR) funds of \$60,000,000. The appropriation requests were summarized and bulleted on the cover letter to the Legislators.

Dr. Hauser asked the Trustees to please remind our Legislators that the College used our State Treasury Investment Funds (STIF) funds last year to cover and move forward with the inflationary construction costs, \$5,000,000 NR, of the FIC with the promise that these funds will be included in this year's General Assembly budget. He also noted that the TTC request, \$500,000 R, is due to the growth and that TTC has always been a State-supported entity. Lastly, is the \$60,000,000 NR request for the Health Education and Simulation Center, a partnership with CaroMont Regional Medical Center, Atrium Health, Gaston County Schools, Lincoln County Schools, Cleveland Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, and other regional partners to become the focal point for healthcare education.

Mr. Stewart met with Speaker Tim Moore in December regarding these requests, and the meeting was well received. Dr. Hauser has requested Representatives Saine, Torbett, and Speaker Moore to have a meeting within the next couple of weeks.

A Legislative Breakfast is being planned for Friday, March 17, in the Myers Center Multipurpose room. An invitation will be sent out soon. To show their support of the David Belk Cannon (DBC) expansion, Mr. Peek, CaroMont Health, Atrium representatives, and Superintendents of Lincoln and Gaston Counties will also be in attendance. Ms. Howe is also scheduling meetings on Wednesday, March 29, with the Legislators in Raleigh. Those attending the

NCACCT Law-Legislature Seminar and who want to be included in those meetings should contact Ms. Howe.

Dr. Hauser pointed out a final document, *NCCCS FY 2022-25 Legislative Agenda*, with the NCCCS Employee investment of 3.5% salary increase for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 and the Student investment of \$145,880,000 for 58 NC community colleges (\$3,130,000 for Gaston College).

The rest of the agenda for the Retreat focused on opportunities for the Trustees to think about for the future, what Gaston College is investing in, how the College can create revenue streams, and an opportunity for the Trustees to assist in the GC Strategic Plan.

## **II. Campus Beautification-Landscape Architect Master Plan**

Dr. Hauser welcomed and invited Ms. Andrea James, Senior Landscape Architect, and Ms. Mary Beth Wortham, Landscape Architecture Designer, with ColeJenest & Stone/Bolton & Menk for their presentation.

During their PowerPoint presentation, Ms. James and Ms. Wortham covered the four-phase process:

1. Due Diligence/Site Analysis (approximately 8 weeks) which included a Kick-Off Meeting with Steering Committee, held February 9, 2023, document review, base maps, site visits, site inventory, and inventory synthesis
2. Visioning (approximately 6 weeks) which includes Workshop 1, a meeting on the Dallas Campus March 27, and meetings on Lincoln and Kimbrell campuses in early April for analysis, precedent visioning, and early design thoughts.
3. Ideation (approximately 6 weeks) which includes Site planning, landscape design, phasing, Workshop 2, and present draft master plan on May 4 to Steering Committee.
4. Final Landscape Master Plan (approximately 4 weeks) which includes site planning revisions, landscape design revisions, identify next steps and present final Master Plan.

Prior to dividing into groups, Ms. James and Ms. Wortham suggested the Trustees start thinking in terms of (1) Campus Connectivity, (2) Ways to enhance the student experience, (3) outdoor learning, (4) sustainability, (5) community connections, (6) site furnishings and materials, and (7) plant palette. Mr. Vinson suggested incorporating plants that are honey bee friendly.

For the next ten to fifteen minutes, the Trustees and Cabinet members divided into groups to discuss the three campus maps and identify with stickers areas of importance, areas in need of improvements, areas enjoyed, and areas not enjoyed.

Dr. Hauser thanked Ms. James and Ms. Wortham for presenting. A copy of their presentation will be maintained with the minutes.

## **III. Gaston College Festival of Lights**

Dr. Hauser began by explaining how today's Retreat platform was to expand opportunities to enhance Gaston College. One way to do this would be by creating a fundraising signature event. Currently, the only fundraising event that draws people to the campus is the Foundation 5K which generates approximately \$20,000.

MerleFest, a four-day event, is the signature event at Wilkes Community College and typically generates between \$650,000 to \$900,000. The funds generated are used for scholarships, capital, etc., and run through their Foundation. While at Carteret Community College, Dr. Hauser started Shuck, Rattle, and Roll, where guests are invited to enjoy fresh seafood, beer, wine, and live music. It is a one-day event that typically raised \$35,000 to \$40,000.

Mr. Huffstetler and Judge Caldwell suggested hosting an event featuring WSGE and Beach music as they did in the past. The Beach music community currently donates the most money to WSGE. When this event was held in the past, there were three or four bands held in front of the Morris Library. However, weather, labor, and expense can be a factor in an event like this. Other events held at Gaston College in the past were in our old auditorium which we no longer have.

Mr. Cloninger asked if the College has an Alcohol policy. There is a policy that specifically states if the event is targeted to students, alcohol is not permitted, however, if it is to the community it is permissible with a permit.

Dr. Hauser introduced the Trustees to a possible signature event, Gaston College Festival of Lights. Thus far, this idea has only been explored and would need the Trustees' support in order to move forward. The proposed GC Festival of Lights would have approximately 12-themed drive-through light displays throughout the campus (total Drive/Walk estimated around 3 miles) starting in mid-November and running to January 1. The drive-through concept would be similar to Tanglewood Park, located west of Winston-Salem off of I-40.

The company, MOSCA Lights, who provided the slide presentation also does all of the lighting at Tanglewood's seven-mile light display.

Included in the slide presentation were pictures of the themes and proposed route.

- Area 1 – Roundabout Entrance
- Area 2 – Season's Greeting, holiday arches, and eye-popping woods
- Area 3 – Library Drive – Winter animals and snowmen
- Area 4 – Rhodes Drive – Caroler's Delight, Winter fun
- Area 5 – Rounding corner at Parking lot D – Peace on Earth with Angels
- Area 6 – E and F Lots – Cowboys and Gardens
- Area 7 – Lot G – Trains, Planes, Boats, and Cars
- Area 8 – Lot H – Zoo Animals, Farm Animals, and Dinos
- Area 9 – Tower Blvd. – Santa Land
- Area 10 – Coming Down into Santa Land
- Area 11- Traveling through Santa Land
- Area 12 – Exit of Santa Land

- P and Q Lots – 12 Days of Christmas
- U Lot – Main Event will hold tree buying lot, smores, and photo ops
- Visitors would be encouraged to tune into 91.7, WSGE, to hear Christmas music as they go through

Tanglewood Park had 60,000 vehicles from November 11 – January 1, 2022. They charge per family vehicle \$20 cash, \$23 credit card; commercial vehicle \$45 cash, \$48 credit card; buses \$115 cash, \$118 credit card. They generated \$1.3 million, expenses were \$675,000 and cleared a profit of \$635,000. The gift shop made \$160,000 and the 5K run generated \$21,000. There would be opportunities for corporate sponsorships such as Blue Rhino, Duke Energy, Ingles, etc. Initially, the projection for Gaston College's Festival of Lights would be 20,000 vehicles.

Through further discussion, the following areas were addressed:

- The need for extra law enforcement due to traffic flow
- Management of evening classes
- Competing with McAdenville, Stowe Botanical, Charlotte Motor Speedway, and Tryon Equestrian Center

Details/logistics such as extra power supply, how much involvement from GC Maintenance, etc., have not been finalized. However, the proposal would be to purchase the lights from Mosca along with a contract with them to setup and breakdown every year.

The Trustees agreed to explore in greater depth the GC Festival of Lights. In addition to an annual revenue stream, it would be an opportunity for outside community exposure to the College. Incorporating more interactive areas for families such as a scavenger hunt was also suggested. A music festival may also be explored as a spring event, possibly partnering with the City of Dallas or Gaston County Parks and Recreation.

An additional partnership (Belmont Abbey, Cleveland Community College, the High Schools, etc.) for drama productions not for revenue but for exposure was also suggested. Dr. Hauser pointed out that a gym was part of the expansion at DBC where events such as productions could be held and encouraged the Trustees to advocate the expansion to the Legislators.

Prior to the scheduled break, Ms. Stroupe asked to make a presentation. She stated that since November 2022, the Trustees have been praying for Chair Dancoff's son, Adam. As a token of support, Ms. Stroupe presented Chair Dancoff with a gift card to use for gas, meals, etc., and assured him that the Trustees would continue to keep Adam and the family in their prayers. Chair Dancoff thanked the Trustees.

#### **IV. Budget Analysis/Investments**

Dr. Hauser explained that this agenda item is an opportunity for the Trustees to see the College's cash balances and advise how to manage these funds. He also pointed out that most of the accounts on the excel budget spreadsheet being presented have taken years to

accumulate such as the Rhino Shop. However, rows 10, 11, and 12, (Lost Revenues, Indirect Costs, and VP indirect Cost Pool) are one-time cash line items that came from COVID funds. With the projection of 14 new programs, athletics, and organizational reorganization and a focus on high schools, our enrollment has increased during our fall (12%) and spring (5%) semesters. Therefore, instead of spending these cash COVID assets, they have been reserved. Moving forward, the College anticipates maintaining this growth and possibly increasing it by another 2%.

Dr. Hauser reviewed the Unrestricted columns which include Lost Revenues-COVID, Indirect Costs-COVID, VP Indirect Cost Pool, DOD Indirect Cost, The Rhino Shop, Crash Café, Dallas Campus Rentals, Kimbrell Campus Rentals, Continuing Ed-Self Supporting, Curriculum-Self Supporting, Vending, Financial Aid-PELL and VA. The Restricted columns (Excess Fees, Transcript Fees, SGA, Campus Access, Technology, Sprint, Educational Partnership-CCP, Student Success Fee, and learning Center-BioNetwork) can only be spent in those areas. The total \$10,938,586 includes restricted and unrestricted funds. Some of these funds have been put in the State Treasury Investment Fund (STIF) which is earning approximately 1.3-1.5%.

Direction from the Trustees on how to invest these funds was presented for consideration. Mr. Luke Upchurch, Chief Development Officer/Executive Director GC Foundation, further explained that he, Ms. Alman, and Dr. Hauser have decided that the College needs to keep approximately \$5 million of the \$10 million (currently earning .1%) in cash reserve which The objective is to move \$1.6 million into STIF or money market accounts (Term-less than one-year), \$2.9 million into short-term CDs (Term-one to three years), and \$3.3 million to Long Term investments (Term-greater than three years). Mr. Upchurch suggested the College be strategic with these funds as the State of NC did when they established the Golden Leaf Foundation and invested COVID funds instead of spending as SC did. Mr. Upchurch shared that the Foundation is already using a similar model, keeping funds they need immediately and investing the rest. He introduced Mr. John Granzow, Managing Director-Investments, The Armillary Group of Wells Fargo, who manages funds for the GC Foundation and an option for the College to use as well.

Mr. Granzow presented virtually; a copy of the presentation will be kept with the minutes. The Armillary Group for the GC Foundation recently did an asset allocation study and updated the investment policy. The Group has an in-depth global manager research team that helps evaluate money managers and evaluates on a quarterly basis to the Foundation Investment Committee and the Foundation Board. Mr. Granzow gave an example of purchasing an institutional money market account for a university with a yield of 4.3%. This is an example of this **first category** (\$1.5 million), under one year and a money market account that has daily liquidity. Certificates of Deposit (CD) can also fall in the first category of under one year, yielding 4.55%, and are FDIC and SIPC insured as long as the investment is kept at \$250,000 or below. In the **second category** (\$2.9 million), one to three-year time frame, there is a short-term, fixed-income such as government bonds, agency bonds, and investment grade corporate bonds with a yield as of January of 4.61%. These investments are done through an organization called Black Rock. The **third category** (\$3.3 million) would be the GC Foundation strategy which was explained later in the presentation.

A summary of cash flows for the GC Foundation was shared beginning with \$4.4 million in 2011 to the current balance of \$9.6 million. Even with the bad investment year last year, the Foundation has doubled its investment. So, the proposal is that the College's \$3.3 million be added to the Foundation with an investment objective of longer than three years.

Mr. Granzow asked if there were any questions about the presentation and opened up a Q&A session.

**Are any of these investments considered high-risk?** The \$4.9 million cash in the bank and \$1.5 million in STIF or money market accounts are categorized as low risk. The 1 to 3-year term, \$2.9 million CDs categorized as low to medium risk, and the \$3.3 million long-term would be the most aggressive of all of the categories.

Mr. Upchurch referred to page 7 in the handout, Gaston College Summary Report which shows the actual assets invested and benchmarks. Dr. Hauser added that this was previously presented and well received by the Finance Committee. Mr. Huffstetler, Finance Committee Chair, concurred and stated that the majority of the funds would be minimal risks other than the portion that would be transferred to the Foundation for long-term investments.

**How much are the Armillary Group fees?** The average for managing all of the funds is approximately .8%.

**Would we be penalized to liquidate early?** Yes, only with the short-term CDs and potentially at a loss with the long-term investments.

Dr. Hauser further explained that the \$10 million total from all categories is our "rainy day" fund. This is in addition to the operational funds and state funds that the College has. The objective today was to show how "solid" the College is financially and how to move forward and become even more so.

**If the Trustees are not as comfortable with the long-term investment amount, can this be refigured?** Yes, plans are to present to the Finance Committee at the March 20, 2023, for a possible recommendation, followed by the Board of Trustees meeting on March 27, 2023.

**Are there any statutory limitations on investing this money?** Mr. Stewart stated he was not aware of any. Ms. Alman also reached out to a neighboring community college that is already investing through its Foundation.

**Could the Foundation keep the money and not return it to the College?** No, there will be an endowment agreement. This would be set up through the Foundation for efficiency purposes. Chairman Dancoff stated that there will be a separate reporting for the College.

**Is there a way to put the \$5 million or a portion of it in a money market so that those funds will also earn money?** Mr. Huffstetler said typically a transfer can be made at least three times a month with a money market and should be looked into. The Trustees agreed this should be looked into further.

## V. Strategic Plan

Dr. Hauser recapped the previous agenda items as all future planning for the College and welcomed Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Executive Vice President Academic/Student Affairs, and Ms. Tonia Broome, Associate Vice President Institutional Effectiveness, for the Strategic Planning portion of the Retreat.

Prior to sharing the PowerPoint, Dr. Dellinger suggested the Trustees start thinking in terms of things that GC does well, opportunities that are available but the College is not using, and external threats that are facing GC. The first few slides presented represented things the College does well such as 2021 #1 North Carolina Community College (NCCCS) Apprenticeship Partner, 2021 #1 NCCCS Customized Industry Training Program, 2021-2022 #1 Practical Nursing Program by practicalnursing.org, 2021 ranked by Intelligent.com as among the best online community colleges in the US, Ranked #2 in the ten best community college in NC by Academicinfluence.com, 2023 State Board of Community Colleges Distinguished Partners award and nominated for the 2023 Bellwether award in the category of Workforce Development. Gaston College also has a tremendous economic impact on Gaston and Lincoln Counties. Dr. Dellinger reviewed numbers provided previously in the handout Dr. Hauser provided for Legislators.

The next portion of the presentation focused on opportunities the College has but may not be used to our full capacity. Some data was provided from *My Future NC* which gives county profiles for Gaston and Lincoln Counties. Based on workers ages 25-44 both counties have approximately 54% who have no postsecondary degree. At least 10% in each county have less than a high school degree. Other changes noted were the number of students that no longer attend district schools but attend charter, private, or are home-schooled. In postsecondary enrollment rates, Lincoln County is close to NC average in all categories, however, Gaston County is behind the NC average, especially in the segregated categories.

*My Future NC* suggests some areas for growth in Gaston County are to (1) Transition to Postsecondary (46% of H.S. seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation), and (2) FAFSA Completion (52% of H.S. seniors complete the FAFSA). For Lincoln County (1) Youth Opportunity (16% of youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school), and (2) FAFSA Completion (56% of H.S. seniors complete the FAFSA). Lincoln County has a higher dual enrollment rate (18%) than Gaston County (10%). The gender demographics show that the College is not serving as many males as females. Age Projections for our service area shows our Career and College Promise (CCP) enrollment is going to decrease by 1% and the 65-plus age group will increase. The Hispanic population is expected to grow to 12% by 2040. The forecasted growth in students who will attend two-year colleges from 2012 to 2029 is projected to increase in the Charlotte region. The Service Area Industry Growth ranked Manufacturing first with Health Care and Social Assistance second.

Trends in Higher Education are diversity in higher education students and faculty; mental health awareness; embracing artificial intelligence for learning; online learning; decrease of institutional control of higher education; higher education is individualized; learning from multiple schools; virtual reality for education; more focus on closing the skills gap; the growing need for alternate funding options; a changing pathway for fundraising campaigns.



Dr. Dellinger presented some of the threats facing community colleges such as employers are losing faith in community colleges; Gen-Z often not seeking out skilled trade careers; the population of college-age Americans is about to crash; community colleges gained dual-enrollment students but lost recent high school grads and adult learners at high rates; Instructors face students having access to services such as Chegg and ChatGPT that can solve math problems and write papers; the likelihood that people will leave their current job in the next 3 to 6 months is approximately 40%.

Before ending the presentation, Dr. Dellinger concluded discussing the five things to do to attract Gen Z into trades. (1) Change the perception and portray it as a worthy career choice; (2) Emphasize the "high-paying" salaries available as Zs seek financial security over job enjoyment; (3) Offer mentorships and apprenticeships; (4) Introduce and recruit early in primary schooling as students explore career choices; (5) Highlight the entrepreneurial aspects of the trades.

Ms. Broome had the Trustees locate in their packet the SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) worksheet and write what the headlines should say about GC in 2028. A few shared were "Gaston College has had a seventh straight year in enrollment growth"; "Gaston College excels in education and sports"; "Gaston College provides scholarships to every Gaston and Lincoln County student"; "Gaston College open this weekend for Open Recruitment"; "Gaston College promotes integrity in education and enhances student intellectual growth by preempting and overcoming student cyber cheating"; "Gaston College is recognized as having the largest economic and workforce ready employees in the State".

The Trustees were asked next to give an example of what Gaston College does well (Strengths – attributes deemed good, positive and or effective/within the College's internal control and influence). Examples shared were "Gaston College has a strong presence on social media LinkedIn"; "Gaston College does a great job looking for opportunities to partner with organizations, celebrating students' achievements, and recruiting students early"; "Gaston College is number 1 in the State in Customized Training business and industry in Gaston and Lincoln Counties as well as the Apprenticeship 321 program"; "Gaston College has an excellent and competent Cabinet and Leadership."

Where can Gaston College improve (Weakness – represents an element of the organization that is not positive but is within our control. Weaknesses shared were "Building, maintenance, upgrades, repairs, and maintaining those"; "General infrastructure such as steam leaks"; "Effective marketing as first-college destination";

A discussion regarding Career Coaches, FASFA and the NC Residency Determination Service (RDS) are barriers students currently face. Dr. Hauser suggested the Trustees advocate at the upcoming NCACCT meeting for community college career coaches in every high school. Currently, we only have one career coach per every four high schools. Also, although the College's current CCP students have gone through the admissions process for the Career and College Promise course, they will still be required by the State to register and prove residency again to take college classes. Mr. Upchurch stated the Foundation does try and help

circumvent FASFA for students who need scholarships but are on hold due to FASFA. These barriers are set by the State not Gaston College.

What are Gaston College's opportunities and areas for growth (Opportunities exist external to the institution but provide an occasion for activity that can foster greater progress in advancing our mission. What are Gaston College's Threats – factors that also exist outside the institution but can impede or hinder progress toward achieving our mission. Those shared for opportunities were "Growing population".

Threats shared were "the decreasing population of young adults"; "Lack of funding County and State"; "Birth rates have dropped".

Ms. Broome invited the Trustees to attend some of the upcoming Community Listening Sessions:

- Tuesday, March 14th, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the Lincoln campus in LC 139
- Thursday, March 16th, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the Dallas campus in the Myers Center Auditorium
- Tuesday, March 21st, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the Kimbrell campus in KCC 118

Ms. Broome let the Trustees know that any suggestions thought of at a later time could be emailed to [strategicplan@gaston.edu](mailto:strategicplan@gaston.edu).

The presentation will be retained with the minutes.

## **VI. Board Survey and Self-Evaluation**

Chair Dancoff thanked the Trustees for participating in the Board Survey asked the trustees to review with him the results of the Gaston College Board of Trustees Survey and Self-Evaluation questionnaire located in their packets. There had been 12 responses to the survey. A copy of the Survey will be kept with the minutes.

On page 2 of the survey, Chair Dancoff noted that Questions 8 and 14 had a perfect score from the twelve who responded. On page 4, survey Question 26 was also in the top three on agreement among the Trustees. Chair Dancoff asked if there were any comments or discussion points related to those responses. There were none.

Survey Question 6 on page 1 which related to a Trustees' skills and abilities being well used by the Board, was scored a little lower. Chair Dancoff asked for the Trustees help with this; if they feel their strengths were underutilized, please let him know. Personally, he is very thankful for all of the skills and experience being utilized on the Board.

Survey Question 9 on page 2 regarding meeting agendas and materials being received in a timely manner was ranked somewhat lower. Chair Dancoff explained that sometimes this is due to information not being readily available or being added late to the agenda. The proposed agenda must then be reviewed and approved by the Committee Chairs. The process can cause a time lapse but will be taken into consideration.

Page 5, Survey Question 31 states the Board has an organized plan that members can follow to effectively advocate for the College ranked lower. Chair Dancoff referred the Trustees to the first items Dr. Hauser referenced at the beginning of the Retreat, The Economic Impact of Gaston College and Contributors to Gaston College's Impact. These were provided in your packet and should serve as effective tools when advocating for the College

Also, on page 5, Survey Question 33 – The Board adequately participates in state and national community college trustee associations. Chair Dancoff commented he feels the Trustees' participation at the State level along with Mr. Vinson's involvement and monthly reports are excellent. He acknowledged the high Board enrollment in the upcoming March NCACCT Law-Legislator Seminar; Yet, he also realizes that the national conferences are not well attended.

After highlighting some of the highest and lowest scoring questions, Chair Dancoff asked if there were any other comments or suggestions to be made. There were none. Chair Dancoff stated the Executive Committee will take all of the responses from the survey into consideration.

## **Conclusion**

Chair Dancoff relayed a few notes to the Trustees:

- On Saturday, February 18, will be our Sophomore Recognition program for Men's Basketball. The program will begin at 2:30 and end by 3:00 for a prompt start to the game. Please arrive early to show your support of our seven Sophomore Basketball Student-Athletes.
- Next Finance and Facilities Meeting, Monday, March 20, 2023
- There will be a Legislative Breakfast Friday, March 17, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.
- The David Belk Cannon Scholarship Luncheon is on March 27th at noon, in the Myers Center.
- Next Board Meeting on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 3PM, in the Myers Center Multipurpose Room C
- The NCACCT Law/Legislative Seminar will be held March 29 to March 31, 2023, in Raleigh. For those of you that have already been registered, please sign the Travel Authorization Ms. Howe left at your places and leave those with her after the Retreat. Ten Trustees have already registered to attend. On Thursday, March 30, President Hauser will be hosting the group at the Angus Barn for dinner.
- Your Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) for this year is due by April 15, 2023. Ms. Howe will send out monthly reminders with the link. The quickest, most secure way to file the SEI is in the electronic filing system. Refiling through the efile system takes less than 10 minutes.

Chair Dancoff thanked Ms. Howe and Ms. Ferguson for organizing the Retreat. He asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. Mr. Todd Baney shared several baseball and softball schedule updates. Judge Caldwell was recognized and encouraged the Trustees to continue to listen to WSGE where he will be a guest host D.J. on Saturday, February 18, from 2:00 -3:00 p.m. Chair Dancoff concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and asked that they please continue the fellowship while enjoying their lunch.

**There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Dancoff adjourned the Retreat at 12:15 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ms. Julie Stroupe, Secretary**

**Mr. John Dancoff, Chair**

**Guyann Howe, Recording Secretary**

**(College Seal)**