

**Minutes of the
Gaston College
Board of Trustees Meeting
Myers Center Auditorium, Section C
March 27, 2023**

Members Present: Judge Jesse Caldwell
Mr. Alan Cloninger
Mr. John Dancoff, Chair
Dr. Shawnya Gore
Ms. Iris Hopper
Ms. Resa Hoyle
Mr. Steve Huffstetler
Mr. Tom Keigher
Mr. Tim Smith
Ms. Julie Stroupe, Secretary
Mr. Randy Vinson, Vice Chairman
Ms. Sidney Hare, SGA President

Dr. John Hauser, President

Members Absent: Mr. Jonathan Fletcher, Mr. Steve Hall, Ms. Janie Peak

Others Present: Ms. Shelly Alman, Mr. Todd Baney, Ms. Ginger Black, Mr. John Canty, Ms. Sherry Carpenter, Ms. Felicia Clark-Giles, Ms. Jasmine Cox, Ms. Maria Curry, Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Ms. Rebekah Ferguson, Ms. Sarah Hutchins, Ms. Joy Hayes, Ms. Guyann Howe, Ms. Katelin Johnson, Ms. Meagan Lingerfelt, Ms. Terri Livingston, Ms. Ashley Long, Chief Talmadge McInnis, Ms. Savonne McNeill, Ms. Maddison Metcalf, Mr. Mack Millen, Ms. Jacquelynn Mondragon, Ms. Tamasa Nelson, Dr. Jennifer Nichols, Ms. Julie Ostrowski, Ms. Eugenia Perkins, Mr. Pete Seeber, Dr. Audrey Sherrill, Ms. Jeneen Silver, Ms. Cierra Smith, Mr. Greg Smith, Mr. Jordan Snook, Mr. Matthew Toldero, Mr. Luke Upchurch, Dr. Heather Woodson, and Mr. Carl Stewart, College Attorney.

Chair Dancoff called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was present for the meeting.

- **Invocation – Mr. 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.

Mr. Keigher moved to approve the agenda; Mr. Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Chair Dancoff presented the Minutes of the January 23, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting and asked if there were any additions or corrections. No changes were identified.

Mr. Keigher moved to approve the Minutes of the January 23, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting; Judge Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. The Minutes of February 10, 2023, Board of Trustees Retreat were presented as informational only since no action was taken during the Retreat.

C. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/REPORTS

1. Welcome Guests and Introduce New Employees

Dr. Hauser welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Ms. Savonne McNeill, Chief Information Officer. Since the network security disruption was discovered five weeks ago, Ms. McNeill and the IT Team have worked around the clock in restoring the College's systems without interrupting operation or classes.

Dr. Hauser invited Mr. Baney, Ms. Cox, Mr. Millen, Dr. Nichols, Ms. Ostrowski, Mr. Smith, and Dr. Woodson to introduce the new employees in their divisions:

Mr. Baney, Chief of Staff, introduced:
Mr. Michael Davis, Campus Police Officer

Ms. Cox, Executive-Textile Technology/Fiber Innovation Centers, introduced:
Ms. Maria Curry, Textile Chemist-Textile Technology Center

Mr. Millen, Director-Facilities and Plant Operations, introduced:
Ms. Joy Hayes, Housekeeper

Dr. Nichols, Vice President for Educational Partnerships, introduced:
Mr. John Canty, Project Director-TRiO Education Opportunity Center (EOC) Program
Ms. Jacquelynn Mondragon, Career Coach-Lincoln County

Ms. Ostrowski, Executive Director-Marketing and Communications, introduced:
Ms. Ashley Holt, Social Media Specialist

Mr. Smith, Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development, introduced:
Ms. Felicia Clark-Giles, Coordinator/Instructor-Employability Skills/Adult Basic Skills
Ms. Madison Metcalf, Program Specialist-Customized Training
Ms. Jeneen Silver, Program Specialist-Customized Training

Dr. Woodson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced:
Dr. Ginger Black, Instructional Designer
Ms. Tamasa Nelson, Instructional Designer
Ms. Ashley Long, Assistant Dean-Health Career Partnerships
Ms. Cierra Smith, Instructor-Nursing

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hauser's activities, since the January 23, 2023, 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 Economic and Workforce Development; Finance and Operations; Human Resources, Organizational Development, and Safety; the Foundation; the Textile Technology Center and the SGA President's Report.

Dr. Hauser highlighted the following from his report:

- Ms. Rebecca Nance, Accounting Faculty, who earned Quality Matters (QM) Certification for ACC 120, Principles of Accounting. QM Certification is the internationally recognized symbol of online and blended course design quality. This is the College's 12th QM certified course. The College's Instructional Design team is working with 13 additional faculty as they work toward QM certification by May 2023.
- Gaston College had the largest Fall 2022 enrollment growth of the 58 NC Community Colleges, earmarked for a \$502,836 allocation.
- Coach Leonard Hamilton, Gaston College Alumnus, is being inducted into the 2023 NJCAA Foundation Hall of Fame.
- The College's new Sports Media Technology Program has been approved and will be offered for the Fall 2023 semester.

Mr. Cloninger shared that there were positive comments made on WBTV regarding Gaston College's Sports Broadcasting Program.

North Carolina Association of Community College Presidents (NCACCP) Meeting – The NCACCP meeting was held January 25-27 at Carteret Community College, Morehead City, where there were discussions and presentations on Higher Education in Turbulent Times, Updates on Longleaf Funding, and Regional Approaches to Supporting Economic Development Megasites.

Basketball Sophomore Night - Gaston College celebrated its sophomore basketball players that were concluding their playing season and moving on to other schools on February 18, 2022. Prior to tipoff, seven departing players, Kirk Scoggins, Dedrick Givens, Joshua Johnson, Dee Merriweather, Da'Marco Watson, Jordan Guthrie, and Caleb McCarty, were each honored for their contributions to the team's successful season. Coach Jamie Rosser is very proud of the effort of the whole team, which concluded with an 18 - 10 overall record.

Intramural Activities - A few intramural activities for February were Checkers, Chess, and Super Bowl Questionnaires. Of course, March Madness basketball tournament brackets have been popular during March along with a pop-up free throw contest held on March 24.

David Belk Cannon Family Scholarship Luncheon - On March 27, 2023, approximately 50 guests attended the David Belk Cannon Family Scholarship Luncheon, which was held to recognize the achievement of students and the generosity of those who are helping to make dreams come true through student scholarships.

Strategic Plan – There were nine Strategic Plan Listening Sessions held at all three Gaston College Campuses for faculty, staff, students, and the community.

Community College Presidents and Superintendents Convening - The NC Association of Community College Presidents and the NC School Superintendents Association convened on March 3, 2023, in Greensboro to discuss several topics that currently, and in the future, will affect how their institutions function.

Good News!

- On Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, Gaston College and Lenoir Rhyne University signed the Bear Bound Partnership Agreement, which will allow Gaston College students to have co-admission, joint academic advising by both institutions, lower costs, and attend with a seamless transfer of credits.
- Gaston College's application for NC Career Coach grant was accepted and approved by the State Board of Community Colleges. The original funding for this grant was set to end June 2023 but has been renewed through 2028.
- Since January 2022, Gaston College has been offering full- and part-time faculty opportunities to participate in and pursue a Certificate in Effective Online College Instruction from the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE), the only college teaching credential endorsed by the American Council on Education (ACE). Faculty members who complete all four micro-credentials earn a nationally recognized certificate.
To date, 62 Gaston College faculty and staff have participated in ACUE training.
- GC Athletic Records as of March 17
 - Basketball finished #5 in Region 10, with a record of 17-12
 - Baseball currently has a record of 22-3 and ranked # 8 in the JUCO Prep Baseball Report poll, #9 in the Dream Big Athletics poll, #13 in the NJCAA's National DI

- Baseball; have 4 student-athletes on the National Leaderboard for Pitching and 12 student-athletes are currently in the top 25 in several statistical categories overall
- Softball currently has a record of 23-7 and are at #1 in Region 10; one of our student-athletes was named the NJCAA's National Player of the Week in March.
 - Held our first Women's Beach Volleyball Tournament on the Dallas Campus March 24-25.
- Worked with our rebranding partner Red Cactus on several marketing pieces for Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) programs at the end of 2022 and are happy to announce that our TAG poster won a Gold Educational Advertising Award.

Gaston County Middle School Visit - Gaston College hosted 300 middle school students from Gaston County Schools March 7-8 The students learned about Gaston College and toured the Be Pro Be Proud CTE experience trucks. The trucks were semi-trucks that housed CTE simulation equipment for students to get hands-on experiences with CTE equipment and demonstrations in welding, electrical, manufacturing, and robotics careers.

Legislative Breakfast – On Friday, March 17 Gaston College hosted a Legislative Breakfast. Senator Overcash, Representatives Loftis, and Hastings were able to attend in person. Representative Saine and Speaker Moore attended by phone. Mr. Peek, CaroMont Health, Mr. Ross, Atrium Health, Dr. Booker, Gaston County Schools, and Dr. Allen, Lincoln County Schools spoke in support of Gaston College's funding request for the Health Science Education and Simulation Center. More than twenty-five faculty were also in attendance and spoke on faculty retention/recruitment barriers due to noncompetitive salaries.

Gaston College Career Fair - Over 80 businesses were represented at the Gaston College Career Fair on March 22. The event was successful with 500 students and community members in attendance.

Carolina Cyber Network Spring meeting - The Carolina Cyber Network Spring Convening was held at Montreat College on March 23 and 24. This was a working meeting of industry sector groups. The purpose of the meeting was to help shape cyber education and develop common approaches for industry sectors including healthcare and manufacturing.

Chair Dancoff asked if there were any questions for Dr. Hauser concerning the activities; there were none.

Dr. Hauser referred the Trustees to pages 34 through 57 of their Board Packet for the other reports including the SGA President's Report.

Chair Dancoff thanked Dr. Hauser for his update.

D. FACILITIES

Chair Dancoff called on Mr. Smith to present the Facilities items for review. Mr. Smith stated that the following Facility items were vetted in Committee.

1. Downtown Gastonia Education Center

Jim Morasso, owner of Webb Custom Kitchen and Citizens National Bank, has approached the college about a potential partnership. Mr. Morasso is renovating Citizens National Bank on West Main Avenue, downtown Gastonia. He suggests a Downtown Gastonia Education Center. The City of Gastonia is also interested in partnering in the project.

The Education Center could potentially serve the community with continuing education and small business opportunities. Plans suggest a receptionist area, craft beer brewing classroom and lab on the first floor. Basic skills area for General Education Development (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs on the second floor along with areas for an educational opportunity center, small business center, and nurse aide-tier 2. The basement could be designated for therapeutic massage to include a classroom, massage lab, storage, and laundry.

An advantage to an educational center located downtown is bus transportation for potential inner-city students that cannot access our main campus.

Upon the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, Mr. Smith moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve further exploration for the concept of the Downtown Gastonia Education Center with Mr. Jim Morasso and the City of Gastonia.

As this motion comes from Committee, a second was not required. Chair Dancoff asked if there were any discussions. There were none.

2. Festival of Lights

Dr. Hauser discussed creating a fundraising signature event for the College at the Board of Trustees Retreat in February. The event discussed was a festival of lights similar to Tanglewood in Winston Salem. The initial proposal included approximately 12 themed drive-through light displays slated to begin in mid-November and end January 1.

Tanglewood hosted 60,000 vehicles in 2022 and generated 1.3 million. Festival expenses incurred totaled \$675,000. A profit of \$635,000 was cleared for 2022.

MOSCA Design, Inc. out of Raleigh provides the lighting setup for Tanglewood. Jay Mallas with MOSCA presented to the Facilities Committee on March 20. The presentation included the light display themes, proposed route, and a cost proposal.

Logistical details have not been finalized. Preliminary thoughts were to purchase the lights from MOSCA, store on campus and contract with the company to setup and breakdown each year.

Upon the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, Mr. Smith moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve further exploration of the

Festival of Lights event which will include a labor analysis; possible additional insurance; negotiations with the City of Gastonia, Town of Dallas, and Gaston County; Law Enforcement involvement; and a potential vendor list.

As this motion comes from Committee, a second was not required. Chair Dancoff asked if there were any discussions. There were none.

3. Capital Reports

Mr. Smith referred the Trustees to pages 63 through 66 in their packet for the Capital Reports. These reports are for informational purposes; no action is needed. He advised the Trustees to direct any questions to Dr. Hauser.

E. FINANCE

Chair Dancoff asked Mr. Huffstetler to present the Finance Items for review. Mr. Huffstetler stated that the following Finance items were vetted in Committee.

1. Cash Management

Over the years, Gaston College has accumulated cash reserves from various sources including student fees. These cash balances include unrestricted and restricted sources. The majority of this cash is deposited with Truist Bank which earns a monthly interest rate of 0.05%. A portion is deposited with the Short-Term Investment Fund (SCIF) with the North Carolina Department of Treasury and earned an interest rate of 2.36424% in January 2023. The SCIF interest rate fluctuates from month to month but usually lags behind market trends.

North Carolina General Statute GS36E-3 allows for the investing of institutional funds. The College is interested in exploring investment options to provide higher interest earnings and has identified \$10.9 million dollars of institutional funds to review for possible investment opportunities using a model similar to that of the Foundation.

The cash balance in the special bank account is used to 'float' capital and grant expenses. For example, construction expenses are paid timely as invoices are received as opposed to holding payments until reimbursements are received. Reimbursement requests occur monthly usually towards the end of the month. Having some amount of excess cash on hand allows the College to pay vendors timely thus avoiding a wait for reimbursements or drawdowns from external funding.

A review of the special bank account deposits and withdrawals over the past year revealed the following:

	Deposits	Withdrawals
Highest Month	\$7,744,550	\$6,887,261
Lowest Month	\$ 715,081	\$1,684,155
Average	\$3,074,796	\$3,101,348

This analysis suggests a balance of \$5,203,106 (difference between highest and lowest withdrawals) might be a good amount to keep as cash-on-hand.

Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Mr. Huffstetler moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve for the College to explore investment options for cash reserves.

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

Mr. Huffstetler relayed to the Trustees that no action was needed on the following five informational Finance Items and directed them to pages 70 through 99 in their Board packet. He advised the Trustees to direct any questions to Dr. Hauser.

2. Financial Audit – Gaston College Foundation
This item was presented for informational purposes; no action was needed.
3. Veterans Affairs Compliance Survey
This item was presented for informational purposes; no action was needed.
4. Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education (VolEd)
This item was presented for informational purposes; no action was needed.
5. Supplemental State Budget Allocations
This item was presented for informational purposes; no action was needed.
6. Financial Reports
This item was presented for informational purposes; no action was needed.

F. REPORT FROM NCACCT

Mr. Vinson reported that he, Dr. Hauser, and nine other Trustees would be attending the NCACCT Law/Legislative Seminar in Raleigh to begin Wednesday, March 29 to Friday, March 31, 2023. Senator Brad Overcash has invited the Trustees to attend the 4:00 p.m. Legislative Session on Wednesday and sit in the Senate Gallery.

Chair Dancoff thanked Mr. Vinson for his report.

G. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dancoff asked the Trustees attending the NCACCT to refer to the folders provided regarding information for the conference. For other dates and announcements, please review the Chairman's report on pages 100 through 103.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with provisions of GS § 143-318.11.(a)(9), Chair Dancoff entertained a motion to enter the Board into Executive Session. Others to be included in the Executive Session were Mr. Todd Baney, Ms. Guyann Howe, Ms. Sarah Hutchins, Mr. Matthew Toldero, Mr. Pete Seeber, and Mr. Jordan Snook. Mr. Cloninger moved to enter the Board into Executive Session, Ms. Stroupe seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chair Dancoff entertained a motion to close the Executive Session and return the Board to open session. Mr. Huffstetler moved to close the Executive Session and return to open session; Judge Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Chair Dancoff entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting.

Chair Dancoff adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Stroupe, Secretary

Mr. John Dancoff, Chair

Guyann Howe, Recording Secretary

(College Seal)