

**Minutes of the  
Gaston College  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Myers Center Multipurpose Auditorium, Section C  
August 28, 2023**

**Members Present:** Mr. John Dancoff, Chair  
Mr. Jesse Caldwell  
Mr. Alan Cloninger  
Mr. Jonathan Fletcher  
Dr. Shawnya Gore  
Mr. Steve Hall  
Ms. Resa Hoyle  
Mr. Steve Huffstetler  
Mr. Tom Keigher  
Ms. Janie Peak  
Mr. Tim Smith  
Ms. Julie Stroupe, Secretary  
Mr. Randy Vinson, Vice Chair  
Ms. Taylor Rose, SGA President

Dr. John Hauser, President

**Members Absent:** Ms. Iris Hopper

**Others Present:** Dr. Lisa Albright-Jurs, Ms. Jennifer Allison, Ms. Shelly Alman, Ms. Ja-riel Bailey, Mr. Todd Baney, Dr. Jeff Booker, Ms. Sun'Nasia Brown, Ms. Patricia Clay, Ms. LaJoia Coleman, Ms. Katrina Conley, Ms. Melisa Cosby, Ms. Jasmine Cox-Wade, Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Dr. Christopher Flowers, Ms. Nicole Fogle, Ms. Melody Gibson, Ms. Vicky Graves, Ms. Kimberly Guffie, Ms. Kendra Hintz, Mr. Blan Hodges, Ms. Guyann Howe, Mr. Ronald Key, Ms. Meagan Lingerfelt, Ms. Terri Livingston, Ms. Courtney Lowery, Captain Rico Mcllwain, Sr., Mr. Mack Millen, Mr. Eric Mucci, Dr. Jennifer Nichols, Ms. Julie Ostrowski, Ms. Hannah Perkins, Mr. Jeff Pruett, Ms. Taylor Rose, Mr. Stephen Sharp, Dr. Audrey Sherrill, Mr. Greg Smith, Ms. Bailey Standridge, Ms. Kelly Trantham, Mr. Daniel Treat, Mr. Luke Upchurch, Ms. Haley Wallace, Mr. Jermaine Williams, Ms. Kimberly Witherell, Dr. Heather Woodson, and Mr. Carl Stewart, College Attorney.

**Chair Dancoff called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was present for the meeting.**

**Invocation – Judge Caldwell**

□ **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.**

**Mr. Huffstetler moved to approve the agenda; Ms. Hoyle seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE June 26, 2023, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING.**

**Chair Dancoff presented the Minutes of the June 26, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting and asked if there were any additions or corrections. No changes were identified.**

**Mr. Huffstetler moved to approve the Minutes of the June 26, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting as presented; Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**C. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

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

Dr. Hauser welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Ms. Bailey Standridge, Staff Senate President, and Mr. Jeffrey Pruett, Faculty Senate President.

Dr. Hauser invited Dr. Booker, Mr. Baney, Dr. Dellinger, Mr. Millen, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Smith, and Dr. Woodson to introduce the new employees in their divisions:

Dr. Booker, Chief Operating Officer, introduced:

Ms. Hannah Perkins, Technology Specialist I

Mr. Baney, Chief of Staff, introduced:

Mr. Blan Hodges, Coordinator-Student Life, Success, Learning & Outreach/Assist. Coach-Men's Basketball

Mr. Jermaine Williams, Coordinator-Student Life, Success, Learning & Outreach/Asst. Coach-Men's Basketball

Dr. Dellinger, Executive Vice President Academic/Student Affairs, introduced:

Ms. Nicole Fogle, Institutional Effectiveness Coordinator

Mr. Millen, Director Facilities/Plant Operations, introduced:

Ms. Jennifer Allison, Housekeeper  
Ms. Kimberly Guffie, Housekeeper

Mr. Sharp, Vice President Fiber Innovation & Facilities Development introduced:  
Ms. Kelly Trantham, Administrative Assistant-Vice President of Fiber Innovation and Facilities Development

Mr. Smith, Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development introduced:  
Ms. Patricia Clay, WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act) Youth Coordinator-Life Skills  
Ms. Courtney Lowery, Work Experience Specialist, WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act) Youth Program

Dr. Woodson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced:  
Dr. Christopher Flowers, Instructor-English  
Ms. Kendra Hintz, Instructor-Nursing  
Mr. Ronald Key, Lab & Sports Production Assistant  
Mr. Eric Mucci, Instructor-Nursing  
Ms. Dorothy Navorska, Instructor-Esthetics (Did not attend)  
Ms. Mary Stokes, Instructor-Nursing (Did not attend)  
Ms. Madison Thompson, Instructor-Medical Assisting (Did not attend)  
Mr. Daniel Treat, Instructor-Surgical Technology  
Ms. Haley Wallace, Instructor-Nursing  
Ms. Kimberly Witherell, Instructor-Business Administration

## **2. Introduction of New Board Member**

Chair Dancoff welcomed Ms. Taylor Rose to the Board of Trustees as the Student Government Association (SGA) Trustee.

### **Ms. Taylor Rose**

A resident of Mt. Holly, Ms. Rose is a senior at Gaston Early College High School. She is passionate about advocating for those in need, serving the student body, and her community. Ms. Rose plans to graduate from Gaston College with an Associate in Arts degree and transfer to a four-year university to study International Business with a minor in Spanish.

## **3. Student Spotlight**

Mr. Greg Smith introduced Ms. Vicky Graves, Basic Skills Student Success Counselor, and Ms. Patricia Clay, Coordinator - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program, who recognized Ms. Sun'Nasia Brown.

Ms. Brown began her journey with Gaston College when she enrolled in the Basic Skills Student Success Program in 2022. She worked diligently and, with much dedication, support, and hard work, earned her G.E.D. in November 2022 and walked the stage as a graduate at the Commencement Ceremony for Career and College Readiness on August 11, 2023. After this achievement, Ms. Brown continued to work with Ms. Graves, her Student Success Counselor, and shared her passion to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. Ms. Graves encouraged Ms. Brown to strive for more and she changed her major to Licensed Practical Nursing with an end goal of becoming a registered nurse.

Ms. Brown's journey began in the fall of 2022 when she first attended a college-ready workshop with Ms. Graves and completed the admission process. She was then referred to the NextGen program to get additional support to start her studies as an LPN and was enrolled in the program in December 2022. Following the guidance of her case manager, Ms. Lajoia Coleman, she enrolled in Gaston College for the Spring semester of 2023 and completed her FASFA so she could receive financial aid. Ms. Brown has shown herself to be dedicated and sure of whatever she puts her mind to doing, and as a result, she successfully completed her first semester with passing grades. She is currently in her second semester of studies in the LPN program and plans to pursue the LPN to RN program. Ms. Brown will continue to receive guidance and financial support through NextGen to complete her curriculum.

Mr. Smith explained that the program, NextGen, Ms. Brown was involved in is part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which is a Federal Program. A drastic reduction in the funds supporting this program has been proposed in Washington. Any influence to keep these funds would be greatly appreciated.

Chairman Dancoff thanked Ms. Graves and Ms. Clay and applauded Ms. Brown on her achievements/goals.

### **3. SkillsUSA**

Prior to a video presentation created by Mr. Ron Keys, Lab & Sports Production Assistant, Dr. Lisa Albright-Jurs, Dean-Career and Technical Education (CTE), explained that Dr. Hauser had approached her for the College to participate in SkillsUSA. Dr. Albright-Jurs, Ms. Melody Gibson, Medical Assisting Chair, Ms. Kate Carmody, Broadcasting and Production Technology Chair, and students representing both programs attended the NC SkillsUSA. Due to the success of the State competition, the group was invited to participate in the National competition.

Mr. Keys shared a video including individual interviews from participants on what the SkillsUSA experience meant to them. Dr. Albright-Jurs summarized SkillsUSA by stating it was one of the most powerful experiences she has had during her tenure at Gaston College. She and Ms. Gibson agreed that the experience brought the CTE division and students closer. Dr. Hauser added that he has been involved with SkillsUSA for twenty years and started three chapters. He has been to competitions on the State and National levels and witnessed students being offered jobs at those competitions. The competitions showcase not only our students but our faculty and staff as well. It is very

impressive that Gaston College's Teams were so successful in their first year competing. Dr. Hauser looks forward to continuing and growing participation at SkillsUSA.

Chairman Dancoff congratulated and thanked the group for their presentation.

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

Dr. Hauser's activities, since the June 26, 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; and the Textile Technology Center.

Quality Matters (QM) – As of July 26, 2023, twenty-two GC faculty have received certification in Quality Matter (QM) certification for their online courses. QM certification is considered the "gold standard" for online and hybrid courses. Other faculty have submitted their courses for review for QM certification.

Enrollment Fall 2023 Semester – Fall Semester Classes started August 21 with an FTE enrollment up 4 ½ % compared to the start of the fall term last year.

Grant Awarded - North Carolina State University's Wilson College of Textiles has been awarded a \$2M, two-year grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop a technical textile training program titled Hilando Oportunidades which is a partnership between Wilson College, Gaston College, and Catawba Valley Community College.

Associate Degree Nursing – The College's recent Associate Degree Nursing graduates received a 100% pass rate on their NCLEX State test.

Tech Services – The College has received a \$100,000 grant for our IT Department for new firewalls and upgrades.

President's Cabinet Retreat – Monday, July 31 through Thursday, August 3, the President's Cabinet (Direct Reports) began the week at the Kimbrell Campus and ended at Gaston Country Club. The group tackled a 551-page notebook with presentations from all areas of the College. The themes from the Retreat ranged from Students, Faculty/Staff, Enrollment Management, Retention/Completion, Continuous Improvement, Communication, Budget/ Funding, Facilities/Space/Infrastructure, and the Strategic Plan. By the end of the week, the Action Item list consisted of 40 items. The Cabinet generally meets monthly to bimonthly. A follow-up mid-year Retreat will be held in December.

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

SGA President, Ms. Taylor Rose, presented the SGA report on SGA activities as of August 2023.

SGA Leadership Training – The 2023-2024 Student Government Association (SGA) participated in a week-long SGA Leadership Training on June 26 - 29, 2023.

Summer Event Programming – On July 25, 2023, the SGA took hotdog lunches to the Lincoln Campus for students, faculty, and staff to enjoy. Similarly, on July 26, 2023, the SGA provided hotdog lunches to students, faculty, and staff on the Dallas Campus to end our summer semester.

SGA Team Building Activity - On August 4, 2023, the SGA participated in a Team Building Activity, including an escape room at Xtreme Xcapes in Gastonia, NC, and a team lunch.

Week of Welcome Events and Greeter Campaign – In August 2023, SGA and Student Life students and staff prepared multiple Week of Welcome (W.O.W.) student events and created over 1600 welcome kits to be provided to new and returning students during the Greeter Campaign held the first two days of the fall semester at each campus location. SGA W.O.W. events will be hosted daily from August 21 - 31, 2023, and will provide food, giveaways, and more to students at each campus location as a way of welcoming in the fall semester and the 2023-2024 academic year.

## **F. FACILITIES**

Chairman Dancoff called on Mr. Smith to provide the Facilities items for review.

### **1. NCDOT Notification Project 48707.1 Intersection Improvements US29/US74 (Wilkinson Blvd) and NC7 (Catawba) – Kimbrell Campus**

The NC DOT notification regarding project TIP No. B-6051, Bridge 91 over Catawba River on US 29/US74 and Intersection improvement on US 29/US 74 (Wilkinson Blvd.) and NC 7 (Catawba) was provided in the Board material. The NCDOT engineers presented several options to the Facilities Committee in November 2022. The final plan also provided in the Board material, was decided upon by the NCDOT and was previously shared with the Board of Trustees.

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

### **2. Capital Reports**

#### **Fiber Innovation Center**

The interior walls are being built. Asphalt and concrete work are ongoing. The project is 66% complete.

#### **De-Escalation Center**

The project is in the design phase.

**Burn Prop**

Architectural drawings have been received. The State Construction Office advised that this project does not need oversight since the cost is less than \$500,000. The College has been approved to move forward; work should begin soon.

**Cybersecurity Renovations**

Room renovations are 85% completed. Specialized equipment and furniture were recently ordered with a delivery date of 6 to 8 weeks; installation will follow.

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

**G. FINANCE**

Mr. Huffstetler asked Ms. Alman to present the Finance Items for review.

**1. FY 2023-2024 County Capital Budget Update**

The Proposed County Capital Priorities for FY 2023-24 are based on the \$797,219 in capital funding provided by Gaston County for the 2023-24 budget year.

<b>2023-24</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>
Various Office and Classroom Renovations	1	100,000.00	County Cap
Ventilation System Updates Automotive	2	95,000.00	County Cap
Exterior Repairs/Windows-Harney Hall-Kimbrell	3	100,000.00	County Cap
Exhaust System for Air Compressor-Kimbrell Campus	4	15,000.00	County Cap
Exterior Repairs/Door & Hardware Replacement DC	5	125,000.00	County Cap
Roof Repairs and Replacement Myers Center	6	212,219.00	County Cap
Maintenance Reserve	7	150,000.00	County Cap
<b>BUDGET YEAR TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 797,219.00</b>	County Cap

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

**2. FY 2023-2024 State Budget Updates**

The FY 2023-24 projected State Operating Budget received July 11, 2023. The College anticipates a \$1,503,131 or 4.5% increase in the baseline state operating budget.

	2022-23 Budget Package	2023-24* Projected Budget BASELINE
<b>A. BUDGET FTE*</b>		
Curriculum	4,062	4,337
Workforce Con Ed	355	418
Basic Skills	149	152
	<b>4,566</b>	<b>4,907</b>
<b>B. FORMULA ALLOCATION - Current Operating</b>		
Curriculum Instruction	16,983,575	18,071,987
Continuing Education/Occ. Extension Instruction	1,163,774	1,303,236
Basic Skills Instruction - State	429,341	399,846
Institutional Support	11,300,352	11,933,043
Performance-Based Allocation	437,189	484,525
<b>Projected Formula Allocation</b>	<b>30,314,231</b>	<b>32,192,637</b>
<b>C. OTHER CATEGORICALS:</b>		
Career & Technical Education	280,356	290,572
Child Care Grants	63,701	36,644
Small Business Center	168,676	167,680
Customized Training Business & Industry Support	60,000	60,000
Equipment	979,041	1,019,928
Instructional Resources	51,150	52,825
Program Specific Categoricals	1,134,720	734,720
<b>Categorical Allocations</b>	<b>2,737,644</b>	<b>2,362,369</b>
<b>Total Projected Allocations:</b>	<b>33,051,875</b>	<b>34,555,006</b>
	Change from prior year	1,503,131
	% Change from prior year	4.5%

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

### 3. Supplemental State Budget Allocation

Supplemental State Budget Allocations received in June 2023.

Purpose	Description	State Current
361	Customized Training	-
552	Long Leaf Recall	(3,900.00)
372	Expansion of Apprenticeship Programs	42,000.00
557	Finish Line recall (EANS)	(57,412.00)
372	Expansion of Apprenticeship Programs	29,250.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,938.00</b>



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

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

A summary of expenditures for year-end June 30, 2023, for State, Gaston, and Lincoln operating budgets and proprietary accounts were provided for the Board's review and information. The State budget is 92.1% spent. Gaston County Budget is 97% spent, and Lincoln County is 100% spent. Ms. Alman also reviewed the Proprietary Funds.

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

Chair Dancoff asked if there were any additional comments or questions for the Finance Committee. Mr. Keigher suggested adding a Commissioner from Lincoln County to the Board of Trustees who would be able to assist with the Lincoln County budget. Chair Dancoff relayed that a change would need to be made to the Bylaws and could be considered once the Legislators vote on appointments of Community College Boards.

#### **H. REPORT FROM NCACCT**

Mr. Vinson relayed that there is a movement by the State Office to create a new funding formula for Community Colleges as opposed to FTE currently being used.

Chair Dancoff thanked Mr. Vinson for his report.

#### **I. BOARD OFFICERS NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

##### **1. Appointment of Board Officers for FY 2023-2024**

Chair Dancoff asked Mr. Fletcher for his report as Chair of the Nominating Committee for Board Officers for FY 2023-2024. Mr. Fletcher thanked Ms. Hoyle and Mr. Smith for serving on the Committee. He reported that the Committee had met and were presenting the following slate of nominations for Board Officers for consideration: Mr. Steve Huffstetler for Board Chair, Ms. Julie Stroupe for Vice Chair, and Dr. Shawnya Gore for Secretary.

**Mr. Huffstetler respectfully withdrew the nomination to serve as Board Chair and nominated Mr. Randy Vinson with a second by Mr. Keigher. Chair Dancoff asked if there were any other nominations from the floor for Board Chair; no additional nominations were made. Mr. Cloninger moved to approve Mr. Vinson as Chair by acclamation, seconded by Judge Caldwell. The motion carried.**

**Chair Dancoff asked if there were any other nominations from the floor for Board Vice-Chair; no additional nominations were made. Chair Dancoff moved to approve by acclamation Ms. Julie Stroupe as Board Vice-Chair. The motion carried.**

**Chair Dancoff asked if there were any other nominations from the floor for Board Secretary; no additional nominations were made. Chair Dancoff moved**

**to approve by acclimation Dr. Shawnya Gore as Board Secretary. The motion carried.**

Chair Dancoff thanked Mr. Fletcher, Ms. Hoyle, and Mr. Smith for serving on the Nominating Committee and congratulated Mr. Vinson, Ms. Stroupe, and Dr. Gore as the Boards' 2023-2024 Officers. He thanked them for their commitment to serve Gaston College in this capacity.

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

The next NCACCT Leadership Seminar is scheduled for August 30-September 1, 2023 in Wilmington. Ms. Howe provided agendas and a travel summary for those attending. Nine Trustees and Dr. Hauser were scheduled to attend. The most current Fact Sheet was also provided to all Trustees.

Chair Dancoff suggested keeping the current Committee assignment unless a Trustee would like a different Committee assignment. If so, please reach out to Ms. Howe. Chairs of the Committees will be announced at the September Board of Trustees Meeting.

Events coming up:

Finance/Facilities Committees	September 18, 2023	3:00 p.m.	MCMA, Section B
Board of Trustees Meeting	September 25, 2023	3:00 p.m.	Lincoln Campus, LC 139
NCACCT Leadership Seminar	Aug. 30 – Sept. 1, 2023		Wilmington, NC
3rd Annual Rhino Classic Golf Tournament	October 2, 2023	11:00 a.m.	Gaston Country Club
Stampede for Student Success 5K/Run and 2K/Walk	November 11, 2023	8:30 a.m.	Dallas Campus

Chair Dancoff thanked the Board for allowing him to serve as Chair for the last three years. The Board applauded his leadership and efforts. Mr. Vinson reiterated the accolades from the Board to Chair Dancoff for his leadership. He also shared his thoughts and commitment moving forward on serving as the Chair for 2023-2024.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Dancoff asked if there was any further business to come before the Board.

**Chairman Dancoff entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cloninger moved to adjourn.**

Chair Dancoff adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ms. Julie Stroupe, Secretary**

**Mr. John Dancoff, Chair**

**Guyann Howe, Recording Secretary**

**(College Seal)**