

**Minutes of the
Gaston College
Board of Trustees Meeting
Lincoln Campus, Room 139
September 25, 2023**

Members Present: Mr. Randy Vinson, Chair
Judge Jesse Caldwell
Mr. Alan Cloninger
Mr. John Dancoff
Mr. Jonathan Fletcher
Dr. Shawnya Gore
Mr. Steve Hall
Ms. Iris Hopper
Ms. Resa Hoyle
Ms. Janie Peak
Mr. Tim Smith
Ms. Julie Stroupe
Ms. Taylor Rose, SGA President

Dr. John Hauser, President

Members Absent: Mr. Steve Huffstetler
Mr. Tom Keigher

Others Present: Ms. Shelly Alman, Ms. Ja-riel Bailey, Mr. Todd Baney, Dr. Jeff Booker, Ms. Jasmine Cox-Wade, Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Ms. Jennifer Etters, Ms. Guyann Howe, Ms. Terri Livingston, Mr. Kendrick McDowell, Mr. Rico McIlwain, Mr. Mack Millen, Ms. Harleigh Monaghan, Ms. Kelly Moore, Dr. Jennifer Nichols, Mr. Stephen Sharp, Mr. Greg Smith, Ms. Bailey Standridge, Mr. Luke Upchurch, Dr. Heather Woodson and Mr. Carl Stewart, College Attorney

Chair Vinson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Lincoln Campus Board of Trustees meeting. A quorum was present for the meeting.

- **Invocation – Ms. Stroupe**
- **Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder**

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

Mr. Cloninger moved to approve the agenda; Ms. Peak seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 28, 2023, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Chair Vinson presented the Minutes of the August 28, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting and asked if there were any additions or corrections. No changes were identified.

Mr. Cloninger moved to approve the Minutes of the August 28, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting; Ms. Hoyle 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 Ms. Baily Standridge, Staff Senate President, and Mr. Jeff Pruett, Faculty Senate President, who was not present.

Dr. Hauser invited Mr. Todd Baney and Dr. Dewey Dellinger to introduce the new employees in their divisions:

Mr. Baney, Chief of Staff, introduced:

Mr. James Hicks, Communications Specialist-Campus Police and Security (Did not attend)

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

Ms. Harleigh Monaghan, Secretary-Student Affairs

2. Student Spotlight

Ms. Jasmine Cox-Wade, Executive Director-Textile Technology Center and Textile Technology Program Instructor along with Ms. Jennifer Etters, Work-Based Learning (WBL) Coordinator introduced Ms. Kelly Moore, a second-year student who will complete a degree in General Textiles Technology this spring.

Ms. Moore shared that after having a two-year gap during the pandemic from her previous job, she decided to explore something new. Because of the convenience to her home, Ms. Moore was attracted to what was offered at the Kimbrell Campus. Ms. Cox-Wade introduced her to the Textiles Program and what it had to offer. Ms. Moore met the requirements to participate in the WBL program during her second year and was partnered with A&E in Mt. Holly. She is able to work there part-time while finishing her degree. With no previous experience in Textiles, the program and WBL program have been very

insightful on what all is available in the Textile field. Ms. Moore would highly recommend the Textile Technology program to others.

Chair Vinson thanked Ms. Moore, applauded her achievements, and wished her the best for her future.

3. Recognition of Service to the Board of Trustees

Chair Vinson asked Mr. Dancoff to please stand and thanked him for the great service he provided as Chairman of the Board during the last three years. After presenting Mr. Dancoff with a gift as a token of appreciation, Chair Vinson read the following resolution recognizing the leadership of Chairman Dancoff.

*Gaston College Board Of Trustees
Resolution
Honoring the Service of Chairman John Dancoff*

WHEREAS, Mr. John Dancoff has provided valuable service as Chair of the Gaston College Board of Trustees from July 2020-2024, three one-year terms; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dancoff, appointed by the Lincoln County Commissioners and proud alumnus of Gaston College, is serving his third four-year term as a Trustee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dancoff, as Chair of the Gaston College Board of Trustees, has provided leadership in Capital Projects: Fiber Innovation Center, Gaston College Sims Legion Park, Beach Volley Ball Courts, De-Escalation Facility, Lincoln Campus and Rhino Shop renovations; Naming of the Patricia A. Skinner Institute of Veterinary Tech. Building; Campus Beautification-Landscape Master Plan; College and University Transfer Agreements; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dancoff has led in the approval of fourteen new programs of study; the College's reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dancoff was supportive of rebranding and Collegiate Sports being brought back to Gaston College; successful NJCAA Region 10 Women's Cross Country, Men's Basketball, Women's Beach Volleyball, Men's Baseball, and Women's Softball; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dancoff has cultivated relationships with community, government, and industry; participated in college-wide meetings and activities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dancoff has led the Board of Trustees Meetings with, dedicated, heartfelt, and noteworthy service; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Gaston College Board of Trustees hereby gives formal expression of its gratitude to Mr. John Dancoff and does hereby acknowledge the substantial contributions as Chair he has made to the Gaston College Board of Trustees and to Gaston College and directs that this Resolution be placed in the minutes of the Board of Trustees and a copy be given to Mr. Dancoff.

Respectfully,

Dr. Shawnya Gore, Secretary
September 25, 2023

Mr. Randy Vinson, Chair

Mr. Dancoff thanked the Board and stated it was his honor to serve as their Chair; he was also delighted that he would be able to continue to serve as a member of the Board for the next three years.

D. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hauser shared the great news of the NC General Assembly's State budget vote which included the \$60 million request for Gaston College's new Health and Wellness Center on the Dallas Campus. Additionally, as information, the Accreditation Senate Bill 680 will be presented to the Governor for approval. If approved during our next accreditation cycle, the College will be using another accrediting agency other than the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Also, if approved, Senate Bill 692 will allow the current Board members to serve the remainder of their terms, moving forward new board members will be appointed by the House and Senate. The language is being clarified. The State Capital Infrastructure fund is \$400 million state-wide. These funds will be allocated to community colleges with capital projects based on FTE.

Jonathan Fletcher applauded the College's current leadership and the legislators for awarding Gaston College \$60 million for the Health and Wellness Center. Chair Vinson also acknowledged the support of Senator Brad Overcash, Representative Jason Saine, Representative Ted Alexander, and others. Ms. Peak shared a quote from Senator Overcash stating "Gaston County will be the second in raw dollars (not per capita) recipient in the State. This has never been done in the history of the Senate." Dr. Hauser thanked the Trustees for their support in getting this accomplished. This project will be led by Dr. Booker, and he will engage community partners during the process.

Dr. Hauser asked Mr. Upchurch and Ms. Livingston to report on the Kimbrell Campus NC Center for Applied Textile Technology construction and equipment investment overview. The full report was also provided in the Trustee meeting material. Ms. Livingston shared that the total Capital Funds, \$18,327,478, needed for the construction of the Fiber Innovation Center is complete. The total needed for equipment is \$10,207,350. After deducting commitments, the total FIC equipment needs are \$1.6 million. The Kimbrell Classroom renovation and equipment needs are \$1,925,000; \$1 million is still needed. Mr. Upchurch added that Ms. Livingston, Ms. Cox-Wade, and Mr. Sharp have done an excellent job in engaging equipment manufacturers in investing their new equipment in the FIC. Dr. Hauser thanked the team for

their hard work on this project and emphasized what an asset the FIC will be to Gaston College.

Dr. Hauser's activities, since the August 28, 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 Administrative Services; Economic and Workforce Development; Finance; Operations and Facilities; the Foundation; and the Textile Technology Center/Fiber Innovation Center. Highlights were provided during the meeting.

NCACCT 2023 Leadership Seminar – Nine Trustees and Dr. Hauser attended the NCACCT Leadership Seminar, August 30 – September 1 in Wilmington, NC. A few of the sessions offered were Collaborations That Make An Impact, The Treat 58 Drive Economic Development In All Communities Across NC, and Effective Champions.

NCACCP Meeting - The North Carolina Association of Community College presidents held their Business Meeting on August 31, during the NCACCT Leadership Seminar. Topics discussed were Technology, Mental Health & Safety, Programs, Professional Development, Legislative, and Finance.

2023 Educators Breakfast - The annual Educators Breakfast was held on September 15, 2023. Among the 80 attendees were Gaston and Lincoln County administrators, principals, and high school counselors. During the breakfast, updates were shared from Gaston College academic divisions, Educational Partnerships, N C State University, Admissions, and Financial Aid.

Rhino Chat - On Tuesday, September 19, a Rhino Chat was held in the David Belk Cannon auditorium. Topics included in the discussion were the State Budget draft, Fiber Innovation Center, Landscape Masterplan (signage), Improvements to GC Grounds, Housing Status, Women's Cross Country, upcoming Rhino Sporting Events, and Arts & Science's Divisional SPARC, Math, and ScVisit events planned for 2023-24.

World Rhino Day Celebration - Gaston College students, faculty, and staff came out for the World Rhino Day Celebration on September 21. They were especially enthusiastic about the return of the dunking booth. The funds raised were donated to the NC Zoo in support of their Rhino Exhibit.

Montreat College Signing Event – On September 25, representatives from Montreat College were on campus to sign two articulation agreements with Gaston College. The programs included in the agreements are Criminal Justice and Cybersecurity.

At the conclusion of the Divisional reports, Chair Vinson asked if there were any questions regarding the reports. Judge Caldwell asked Mr. Smith how businesses and projects were identified for the Apprenticeship program and Customized Training projects. Mr. Smith relayed that Ms. Morrow, Director of Apprenticeship 321, reaches out to different industries and speaks at a lot of community functions regarding the program. Ms. Morrow also works closely with Ms. Hansley, Director-Customized Training. Three-year projects are identified when a company is expanding/adding more employees and paid by meeting certain criteria with the

NC Community College System office. Judge Caldwell suggested Trustees could also advocate for the Customized Training Projects. through their business connections.

Dr. Hauser asked Mr. Upchurch to begin working with Chair Vinson on developing a Trustee's scholarship to be awarded to two students, one in Lincoln County and the other in Gaston County.

E. SGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Taylor Rose, SGA President, presented the SGA report on the SGA activities held since August 2023. There were 3,645 students who participated in all the events.

- August 21, 2023, Hungry Howie's Food Truck/Domino's Grab-N-Go
- August 22, 2023, Arts & Sciences Open House/Kona Ice & Mini-Course on Motivation
- August 23, 2023, Kona Ice/Lunchable Grab-N-Go
- August 24, 2023, Twisted Sugar Giveaway/Jaycees Treat Giveaway, Deli Sandwiches Grab-N-Go
- August 28, 2023, Anna's Sweet Treats
- August 29, 2023, Health and Human Services/Career Technical Education Open House
- August 29, 2023, Anna's Sweet Treats
- August 30, 2023, Win It Rhino Wednesday
- August 30, 2023, Grocery Bingo/Evening Student Pizza Grab-N-Go
- August 31, 2023, Student Success Expo
- September 5, 2023, Frios Gourmet Popsicles
- September 6, 2023, Rhino 101 Crash Course
- September 7, 2023, GC Resources Trivia
- September 12, 2023, National Video Games Day
- September 13, 2023, Step Into Your Momentum
- September 14, 2023, Constitution Day Celebration
- September 18, 2023, Constitution Day Celebration-Lincoln Campus

N4CSGA - On September 16, 2023, four SGA students and two SGA advisors attended the 2023 N4CSGA Fall Western Division Meeting at Mitchell Community College to represent Gaston College.

Student Success Expo - On August 31, 2023, the SGA sponsored the 2023 Student Success Expo in the Myers Center Multipurpose Auditorium on the Dallas Campus.

Constitution Day Celebrations and Voter Registration - On September 14 & 18, 2023, the SGA celebrated Constitution Day on the Dallas and Lincoln Campuses. During the Dallas Campus event, students were able to use a life-size Constitution background as a photo backdrop and register to vote with assistance from the Gaston County Board of Elections representative.

Chair Vinson thanked Ms. Rose for her report and commended the SGA for all of the activities that they offered students. Judge Caldwell also praised the SGA for offering voter registration day to the students.

F. FACILITIES

Mr. Smith reported with the assistance of Mr. Millen the following Capital Reports:

1. Capital Reports

Fiber Innovation Center

The project work is 83 % complete as of September 18. Interior walls are being painted. Asphalt and concrete work close to completion. Water line connections and changes are being made. Rooftop HVAC unit installation has begun. Internal electrical parts delayed. Copper front being installed. Completion date is estimated for March 2024.

De-Escalation Center

Project in the design phase. Test borings are complete and lab results were delayed but are now back. Working with the City of Gastonia on the agreement for the building addition and the paving project. Construction drawings are due for review and submission to the State Construction Office. Working to complete design and RFP for a general contractor by end of 2023. The delay in this project should not impact any classes.

Burn Prop

Architectural drawings have been received. The State Construction Office does not have oversight for the project since the cost is less than \$500,000. The College has been approved to move forward. Grading for the project has begun.

Cybersecurity Renovations

Room renovations are 95% complete. Specialized equipment and furniture have been ordered. Sound panels and data lines are being installed. The estimated completion date is November 2023.

Sims Park Scoreboard

The City of Gastonia has agreed that the existing contract with the College will cover the Scoreboard; work to begin October 2023. Total spent to date \$67,530. The estimated completion date is November 2023.

This Item was for information only; no action was needed.

G. FINANCE

In Mr. Huffstetler's absence, Chair Vinson asked Ms. Alman to present the Finance Items.

1. Pension Spiking Agency Report

During the 2014 General Assembly session, contribution-based benefit cap (CBBC) legislation was enacted effective Jan. 1, 2015, to control the practice of "pension spiking" in which a retirement system member's compensation substantially increases, resulting in a monthly retirement benefit that is significantly greater than the member and employer contributions would fund. As part of this calculation, a minimum average final

compensation (AFC) amount is established before the calculation would apply, which is indexed for inflation each year. The current AFC threshold is \$126,956.05. This rule as established will only impact a few members of the retirement system. The legislation requires the member's last employer to pay the additional contribution required to fund the member's benefit in excess of the cap.

The State Treasurer's office reports monthly to each employer a list of those members for whom the employer might be required to make an additional contribution. The chief financial officer of the agency is required to provide a copy of the report to the chief executive and the governing body so that all are aware of the potential future liability.

Gaston College receives monthly reports from the State Treasurer's office identifying members who are close to the AFC threshold. The members identified may or may not actually reach the CBBC at the time of their actual retirement.

At the current time, 6 members' calculated AFC falls below the minimum threshold established by the State Treasurer. No potential payouts are calculated at this time. We will continue to monitor the calculation in the future.

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

2. Supplemental State Budget Allocation

Supplemental State Budget Allocations received in July and August 2023. Ms. Alman explained that most of the funds listed are carry-forward funds returned to the State in June 2023 and are being received for FY 2023-2024.

Gaston College

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024
Supplemental Budget Allocation

Purpose	Description	State Current
361	Customized Training	168,667
199	Budget Stabilization	1,000,001
357	Appren. CarryForward	45,250
372	Expansion of Apprenticeship CarryForward	419,683
457	Finish Line grant CarryForward	8,000
552	Longleaf CarryForward	18,575
555	GEER CarryForward	3,423
556	LCCCG CarryForward	65,137
557	Finish Line grant CarryForward	3,023
558	GEER II CarryForward	5,327
559	Finish Line Grant	24,380
	Total	\$ 1,758,466

3. Financial Reports

Month-end financials for August 31, 2023, were presented and reviewed by Ms. Alman. She explained that the College is still operating on a continuation budget approved by the Board of Trustees based on FY 2022-2023 budget until the new budget is officially decided and received. All budgets, State at 16.67%, Gaston County at 16.8%, and Lincoln County at 13% are on target.

Mr. Fletcher asked about the Gaston County project to replace steam boiler lines. Ms. Alman relayed that the project was on the County's agenda. If the \$3.2 million is approved it may not be enough to replace all of the lines based on the quote received.

Under proprietary funds, the Rhino Shop sales are showing a loss. Ms. Alman shared that typically at the beginning of the semester the costs are inflated due to the timing of financial aid and increased inventory prior to actual sales; however, the Rhino Shop can seek vendor credits based on excess inventory. Expenses also increased due to moving a part-time employee to full-time. The Textile Testing fund is also showing a loss, however, should self-correct once work is complete and accounts receivables are received. The Vending fund is showing a loss; old equipment is being replaced and stocked through Canteen.

This Item was presented for information purposes; no action was needed.

H. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. NCACCT Report

Chair Vinson had no report at this time to share.

2. Board Committee Assignments / Chairs

Chair Vinson referenced the Board Committees listed in the material. He thanked Mr. Huffstetler for continuing to serve as the Finance Committee Chair, Mr. Smith as the Facilities Chair, and Ms. Peak as the Campus Affairs Chair.

3. Chair Vinson reviewed some dates for College/local events of which he felt they would want to be aware:

Events coming up:

3 rd Annual Rhino Classic Golf Tournament	October 2, 2023	11:00 a.m.	Gaston Country Club
Foundation Scholarship Legacy Dinner	October 12, 2023	6:00 p.m.	Myers Center

Finance/Facilities Committees	November 6, 2023	3:00 p.m.	MCMA, Section B
Stampede for Student Success 5K/Run and 2K/Walk	November 11, 2023	8:30 a.m.	Dallas Campus
Board of Trustees Meeting	November 13, 2023	3:00 p.m.	MCMA, Section C

4. A list of upcoming Gaston College Athletics events was also provided in the Board materials. Chair Vinson encouraged everyone to come out and support the Rhinos.

I. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ms. Peak shared that she and several others are in the process of nominating Dr. Hauser as President of the Year for 2024. She is in the process of writing a seven-page narrative that will be submitted with letters of support from Mr. Andy Warlick, Mr. Chris Peek, Chair Vinson, Mr. Dancoff, and Mr. Baney. A selection committee at the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) will decide in April 2024 on the recipient. She thanked those who have helped in the process.

Dr. Hauser advised that there may be a called meeting in October if the State gets the budget approved and sent. The meeting would be for the Board of Trustees review and approval of FY 2023-2024 budget. Ms. Howe will notify the Trustees accordingly.

Mr. Hall moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Stroupe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chair Vinson adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Shawnya Gore, Secretary


Mr. Randy Vinson, Chair


Guyann Howe, Recording Secretary

(College Seal)