

**Minutes of the
Gaston College
Board of Trustees Meeting
Myers Center, Section C
August 25, 2025**

Members Present: Judge Jesse Caldwell, Chair
Ms. Janie Peak, Vice Chair
Dr. Shawnya Gore, Secretary
Mr. Bill Carstarphen
Mr. Alan Cloninger
Mr. Steve Hall
Ms. Iris Hopper
Ms. Resa Hoyle
Mr. Steve Huffstetler
Mr. Tom Keigher
Mr. David Lee
Ms. Janie Peak
Ms. Julie Stroupe
Mr. Bannock Scott, SGA President

Dr. John Hauser, President

Members Absent: Mr. Jonathan Fletcher

Others Present: Mr. Todd Baney, Ms. Tonia Broome, Ms. Jasmine Cox, Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Dr. Daniel Freeman, Dr. Sam Grubbs, Ms. Micajah Hanna, Ms. Sierra Herndon, Ms. Guyann Howe, Ms. Sarah Hutchins, Dr. Zachary Kendra-Dill, Ms. Helanea Killian, Ms. Meagan Lingerfelt, Ms. Lizette Reyes-Lopez, Ms. Andrea Lovelace, Mr. Kendrick McDowell, Mr. Rico McIlwain, Ms. Savonne McNeill, Mr. Mack Millen, Dr. Jennifer Nichols, Ms. Alexis Odell, Ms. Julie Ostrowski, Mr. Stephen Sharp, Dr. Audrey Sherrill, Dr. Aaron Slutsky, Mr. Greg Smith, Mr. Luke Upchurch, Mr. Richard Walker, Mr. Mike Whiteman, and Dr. Heather Woodson.

Chair Caldwell called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was present for the meeting.

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

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

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

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. June 24, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting

Chair Caldwell asked if there were any changes, additions, or corrections to the June 24, 2025, Board of Trustees Minutes. None were identified.

Mr. Huffstetler moved to approve the June 24, 2025, Board of Trustees Minutes; Mr. Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

C. WELCOME

Dr. Hauser welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Dr. Sam Grubbs, President of the Faculty Senate, and Representative for the Staff Senate, Mr. Kendrick McDowell, who was attending on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Johnson, President of the Staff Senate. He also noted that it was the first day of Fall classes and reported a 6% increase in enrollment, praising staff and faculty for supporting the 6,600+ students. Dr. Hauser also emphasized teamwork and growth across all departments.

1. Introduction of New Trustee, Mr. Bannock Scott, SGA President

Mr. Scott was born and raised in Gastonia. He is in his 13th year of school, working towards both his High School Diploma from Gaston Early College High School and an Associate in Engineering from Gaston College. He currently serves as the President of both the Gaston College Student Government Association and the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association (N4CGSA). Driven by a strong dedication to community engagement, Bannock is passionate about student leadership and advocacy. He plans to transfer to a 4-year university to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with the goal of becoming a mechanical engineer for amusement ride manufacturers.

Chair Caldwell welcomed Mr. Scott with encouragement for his leadership role and future career.

2. Recognition of Service to the Board of Trustees – Mr. John Dancoff

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners appointed Mr. Dancoff to serve on the Gaston College Board of Trustees. He is currently serving his third four-year term as a Trustee and his fourth (non-consecutive) one-year term as Chairman of the Board. Since his appointment in 2014, Mr. Dancoff has also served on the Board's Facilities Committee for six years, including four years as Committee Chair.

During his tenure as Chairman, the Board approved several new academic programs, including Public Safety Administration, Central Sterile, Gunsmithing, Respiratory Therapy, Sports Media Technology, Surgical Technology, Health Information Technology, Associate in Arts in Teacher Preparation, Associate in Science in Teacher Preparation, Early Childhood Administrative Certificate, Applied Engineering Technology, Textile Technology, Pharmacy Technology, Cybersecurity, and Medical Sonography.

Significant milestones achieved under Mr. Dancoff's leadership include the groundbreaking and ribbon cutting of the Fiber Innovation Center; the naming of the Patricia Skinner Veterinary Technology Building; the opening of Sims Legion Park and beach volleyball courts; major updates to the Lincoln Campus; renovation of the Rhino Shop; the acquisition of property on College Avenue; campus beautification guided by a Landscape Master Plan; and the selection of the architect for the new Health and Wellness Building. The College has also experienced three consecutive years of enrollment growth and received regional, district, and national recognition for its collegiate athletic teams.

Mr. Dancoff has been an active and dedicated Chair, participating in Board and Committee meetings as well as numerous college events and activities. His leadership as Chair of the Board has strengthened Gaston College in countless ways. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the Board of Trustees and to the College's mission: "To educate and care for people."

Chair Caldwell presented Mr. Dancoff with a token of appreciation. Mr. Dancoff thanked the Board for their support, stating he has another year on the Board and is committed to completing key Lincoln County projects during that year.

3. Rhino Facts Presentation

Ms. Tonia Broome, Associate Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness, gave a summary of 2025 Rhino Facts:

- **Enrollment & FTE Trends:**

- FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) Enrollment:
- Increased 22% in curriculum programs since the 2020-21 academic year.
- Workforce development rose 61%.
- Basic skills education grew 181%.

- **Ranking Improvements**

- Moved from 10th to 8th in the state (out of 58 colleges) for curriculum FTE.
- Moved from 40th to 28th in workforce development.

- **Student Success Rates/Graduation Rates:**

- 2-year (100% time) grad rate improved from 20% → 49%.
- 3-year grad rate: 33% → 63%.
- 4-year grad rate: 45% → 53%.

Attributed to:

- Prior credit for workforce and military experience.
- High school dual enrollment and early college programs.

- **State Performance Metrics:**

Measured on 7 state benchmarks:

- 3 rated "Above Average," 4 "Average."
- Achieved institutional goal of being average or above on all measures for the first time since Ms. Broome's tenure.

- Licensure pass rates slightly down due to temporary exclusion of BLET exam data.
- **Recognition & Achievements:**
 - Named one of USA Today's Top 250 Vocational Schools.
 - Practical Nursing Program ranked #1 in the state since 2021.
 - Home to an NSA National Center of Academic Excellence for our Cyber Defense program.
 - Gaston College has one of the top apprenticeship programs in NC
 - WSGE radio station remains award-winning.
 - Gaston College awarded the 2025 Governor's Agency Works Award for innovation on the Lincoln Campus.
- **Student Demographics:**
 - 77% of students are part-time.
 - 59% fully online.
 - 65% female; 35% male.
 - 61% from Gaston County, 24% from Lincoln County, 15% from elsewhere.

D. FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Huffstetler presented the following action and informational items, which were vetted during the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held on August 18, 2025.

1. FY 2025-26 State Budget Update

As of August 1, 2025, the full North Carolina FY 2025–2026 state budget has not been passed. Instead, the General Assembly enacted House Bill 125, a “mini-budget” or stopgap funding bill, to keep essential government operations running while negotiations over the comprehensive biennial budget continue.

The expectation is that the NC legislature will likely not finalize the state budget before October. House Bill 125, recently enacted as a “mini-budget,” provides interim funding for state operations while the full biennial budget remains under negotiation.

Key Impacts:

1. Enrollment Growth Funding

- Allocates \$95 million annually to support increased enrollment across the NC Community College System.
- Gaston College may benefit from additional resources to accommodate rising student numbers and maintain instructional quality.

Concerns were discussed about the \$1.1 million nursing faculty funding pool. However, it was noted that Gaston College is not at risk due to prior internal allocation. Enrollment growth also supports sustainability.

2. Salary Step Increases

- Provides step increases for community college employees based on years of experience.
- These adjustments help retain talent and ensure equitable compensation, though they are not across-the-board raises.

3. Health Plan Stabilization

- Increases the State Health Plan employer contribution to \$8,500 per covered employee, addressing a significant funding gap.
- This supports the long-term sustainability of employee health benefits.

2. Supplemental State Budget Allocation

\$291,553 in Supplemental State Budget Allocations received in May and June 2025:

GASTON COLLEGE
May and June 2025
Supplemental Budget Allocation

PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	STATE CURRENT
361	Customized Training	\$ 70,818
357	Apprenticeship Building America	\$ (6,750)
372	Expansion of Apprenticeship	\$ (37,363)
547	Emergency Scholarship Grant	\$ (467,110)
various	Faculty Recruitment & Retention	\$ 220,735
	TOTAL	\$ (219,670)

A total of \$1,296,848 has been received for Customized Training as of June 2025 as follows:

Customized Training - Reconciliation		
As of June 2025		
		YTD TOTAL
31196	Plastics Product Manufacturing	28,039
31198	Parkdale Mills	183,025
31178	Owens-Corning #2	5,674
31189	J & L Machine & Fabrication	18,098
31186	HYDAC	43,615
31187	Husky	34,700
31195	Huber Technology Inc	63,296
31135	Dole Foods	136,012
31142	Bosch Hand Tools	514,846
31193	Blum (Project 2)	141,053
31408	Blum	58,475
31182	APTAR #3	53,776
31107	AB Carter	16,239
TOTAL FOR FY 2025		1,296,848

This agenda item was for information only; no action was required.

Dr. Hauser reminded the Trustees of the email announcement he had previously sent regarding a new company in Bessemer City, Healsee Capsules, Inc. The College will begin working with Healsee Capsules corporate officials soon through our Customized Training program.

3. Financial Reports

Financial Reports were listed for review. Summaries of budget and expenditures for the month-end June 2025, were included for State, Gaston, and Lincoln County operating budgets and proprietary accounts in comparison to the previous year.

State: State budget **non-categorical** spending was 99.2% spent at the end of June 2025. Results will fluctuate based on receipt of supplemental funding and operations spending.

Categorical: Overall spending is at 98.7% with some categories higher. Due to the nature of certain categorical allotments, straight-line percentage comparisons can be misleading, as not all are based on the fiscal year, and funds are allocated to the College throughout the year for specific projects. For example, purpose code 361—New and Expanding Industry Customized Training—represents funds awarded to the College to deliver training based on timelines requested by individual companies. These funds are typically intended to be spent quickly upon award.

County Budgets: 100% of the Gaston County budget and 100% of the Lincoln County budget have been spent as of the end of June 2025. Finance continues to manage county spending using other funding sources as needed.

Proprietary: Mr. Huffstetler and Mr. Whiteman introduced a newly formatted report for tracking non-State and non-County funds. This revised format, recently reviewed and approved by the Board's Executive Committee, organizes the financial data into three key categories: (1) Student Fees, (2) Auxiliary Activities, and (3) Other Activities

A comprehensive overview of each category was presented, covering all student fees, auxiliary operations, and other related activities for fiscal year 2025.

During the discussion, Mr. Cloninger raised a concern regarding the availability of Access Fee Funds and the possibility of overcollection of student fees.

In response, Mr. Whiteman explained that Access Fees are allocated to support essential services such as campus police, infrastructure improvements, and security upgrades. Mr. Millen added that approximately \$100,000 from these funds were recently used to repair potholes across campus in preparation for the Fall semester. He noted that several other infrastructure projects remain pending.

Dr. Hauser emphasized that the current surplus is being used strategically to build reserves for future needs and unforeseen emergencies.

Mr. Cloninger stressed the importance of maintaining equity for students and encouraged consideration of either reducing fees or providing direct, tangible benefits. Mr. Whiteman responded

that the administration is evaluating the potential use of some Access Fee funds to enhance campus police salaries, aiming to improve the competitiveness of those positions in the job market.

College Investments with the Foundation: As of June 30, 2025, the College has invested \$3 million via the Foundation. The Investment balance is held at Raymond James, and interest earnings on those investments so far are \$96,703.

1. Capital Reports

The following monthly summary of capital reports were submitted for review:

De-escalation Center: SCO has approved the project to proceed. The permit process has started with the City of Gastonia and Gaston County.

Fiber Innovation Center: New equipment has been installed, and the design phase for all connections needed is underway. The plans and funding are being addressed for the addition of a chiller to serve the new equipment that is being installed. Final close-out and warranty corrections are underway.

Health Science Education and Simulation Center: The NC Office of State Budget and Management has released the first \$15m allotment to the College for the project. An RFQ for architectural design services was issued with documents due October 31st. 21 proposals were received. Evaluation of bids took place on November 6th. That list was narrowed to 6 Architectural firms by a selection committee. Those firms made presentations to the Facilities and Finance Committee on December 10th. The F&F Committee selected WHN+, Morris-Berg, ADW, and Lord Aeck Sargent to give presentations to the Board of Trustees. Those presentations were on Thursday, December 12th. The firm chosen to be presented to the North Carolina State Construction Office was Morris-Berg, with the two alternates being Lord Aeck Sargent and WHN+. Morris-Berg held the fourth Workshop session to facilitate the planning process for this project. The meetings included selected representatives from Faculty, Staff, Athletics, and Gaston County Schools. Soil Testing samples were taken and we are awaiting that report. Site, topography, and underground utility locating are underway. The Advance Planning Phase of the project was completed, and a Design Services contract was sent to SCO for approval. Morris-Berg is working with Guyann to set up workshop times for the Schematic Design Phase of the Design Schedule. The meetings will include representatives from Faculty, Staff, Athletics, and Gaston County Schools. The Soil Testing report has been provided to Morris-Berg, and the site survey, topography, and underground utility locating reports were delivered on 8/6/25 for review.

Minor Project –PTI Automotive Labs Exhaust System: The exhaust systems for the automotive labs in the Pharr Trade and Industrial Building, rooms PTI 109 and PTI 110, will be renovated to install updated equipment. The project is currently in the design phase. Drawings have been completed. We are working with CMTA to put a Scope of Work together.

Minor Project –Rauch Science and Fine Arts Building Lab Hood Exhaust System: The Lab Hood exhaust systems in the Rauch Science and Fine Arts Building need repair and renovation to restore them to full operation. This will include needed repairs, updates for energy savings, and the removal of the pneumatic controls and air compressor. The controls will be integrated with the Gaston College Building Automation System. We are working with CMTA to put a Scope of Work together. Design drawings are complete. Team Mechanical LLC was selected as the general contractor. After a value engineering process, funding was approved using County Cap Funds with a budget of \$448,000, and an agreement has been signed. A PO was issued, and preliminary work has started. Team

Mechanical is approximately 80% complete and are working toward completion by the start of classes on 8/25.

Minor Project – Regional Emergency Services Training Center (RESTC): The Board of Trustees approved to proceed with the structural inspection January 22, 2024. The structural inspection took place May 14-16, 2024. The concrete testing report has been received. The inspection found two (2) areas within the tower too deteriorated for safe use. Other areas were determined useable but reaching end-of-life. The structure needs replacing within the next several years. We have been meeting with contractors to obtain cost estimates on repairs for the two areas that have been taken out of service and all other areas where fire props are located.

Steam Plant Renovation Project: The project is currently in the design phase; however, based on preliminary assessments, the first phase will focus on the Comer Engineering Technology Building (CET) and the Robinson Classroom Building (RCB). The College provided documents to Gaston County that were requested supporting the use of ARPA funding. An Electrical Load study was performed for the CET Building and is under review by the engineering team. Gaston County has provided a subrecipient agreement for this project, and the Gaston College Board of Trustees approved it at their meeting on November 18th, 2024. The signed document was presented to Gaston County for final approval. Due to the scope of work, the project has been separated by building.

Robinson Classroom Building Steam Plant Project:

Drawings for RCB are at 90% and have been sent to the State Construction Office for pre-approval. A 3-1 is in progress. A 3-1 was approved by the NCCCS systems office, and the project is now under SCO oversight. The design contract with AME Engineering has been updated and accepted by SCO to move the design services from the direction of Gaston County to being under contract with Gaston College and under the oversight of SCO. Gaston County will still provide the funding for the engineering fees as provided through the sub-agreement award. Morris-Berg is providing design services for AME on this project. They have forwarded the construction drawings and other documentation to the SCO for review.

Comer Engineering Technology Steam Plant Renovation Project:

A 3-1 has been submitted to the systems office and should be considered at their next board meeting. Gaston County has provided a subrecipient agreement for this project, and the Gaston College Board of Trustees approved it on November 18th, 2024. NCCCS approved the project and the process will start to get the Engineering Design Services Contract changed to Gaston College and SCO. Morris-Berg is providing design services for AME on this project. They have forwarded the construction drawings and other documentation to the SCO for review.

Textile Academy Renovation Project: The project will include interior and exterior renovations to the Kimbrell Classroom Building on the Gaston College Kimbrell Campus. The renovations will create space for (2) Analytical Testing Labs, a Microscopy Lab, and (2) Physical Testing Labs. This will allow for support and growth in industry training for the region and nationally. It will also enhance the development of the Associates Degree in Textile Technology by offering students hands on training. There will be modifications in the Electrical, HVAC, and Plumbing systems. Funding source to be determined. Currently awaiting a funding source.

Fiber Innovation Center Electrical Upfit Textile Technology Center Carding Room: The Textile Technology Center (TTC) has received a donation of carding-type textile machinery in coordination with the development of the new Fiber Innovation Center (FIC). This prototype production machinery will support the TTC's mission as outlined in State Statute 115D-67.1. The FIC was specifically

designed to accommodate this equipment, with Room 119 offering 7,050 square feet of high-bay industrial space equipped with the necessary power and environmental conditions. To fully operationalize the equipment, a project will be required to install additional electrical connections from the main distribution panel (MDP), including voltage adjustments, to each of the 32 or more individual pieces of machinery. Board approved to proceed with project 1/21/25. An RFP was issued for engineering design services, and the responding firms were evaluated on qualifications and selected by ranking. McKim & Creed was selected as the engineering firm, and they are currently preparing project cost estimates for design, bidding, permitting, and construction. The project has been entered on Interscope as a HUB project, and we are awaiting the construction drawings.

Fiber Innovation Center Process Chiller: The Textile Technology Center (TTC) has received donations of and continues to purchase very specialized textile machinery for the development of the new Fiber Innovations Center (FIC). This specialized equipment generates high temperatures. The FIC was specifically designed to accommodate space for this specialized equipment; however, a process chiller will be necessary in order to maintain proper temperatures and protect the equipment and building. Board approved to proceed on 1/21/25. McKim & Creed is the selected engineering firm and they are currently preparing project cost estimates for design, bidding, permitting and construction. The 3-1 approved by NCCCS. Stephen Sharp is working with McKim & Creed to begin the design process.

Fiber Innovation Center Reactor Room Connections: This project will take place in the Fiber Innovation Center a 41,000-square-foot precast concrete structure utilized for workforce development and to provide support to the textile industry. This project will involve room 104, a 2323 square foot, 1-floor area with a high bay ceiling designed to accommodate cutting edge textile technology. The scope of this project will involve making various electrical, processed chill water, fumed ventilation, and compressed air connections to allow for the operation of a polycondensation reactor that was donated to Gaston College and specialized cleaning ovens for maintaining precision extrusion dye components. The fiber innovation center was originally designed with the capabilities in mind to support the equipment that is being installed and to be utilized to enhance textile technologies in North Carolina and throughout the textile industry. The 3-1 was approved by NCCCS. Stephen Sharp is working with McKim & Creed to begin the design process.

Fiber Innovation Center Extrusion Equipment Connections: Gaston College has installed nine (9) industrial equipment units into the extrusion room area of the Fiber Innovation Center, a single-floor 41,000 sq. ft. Textile Technology Facility that will require varying levels of electrical, compressed air, and potable water installations and connections. This location is a workforce development and textile industry support facility located on the Kimbrell Campus of Gaston College. Each of these pieces of equipment has various utility connection points, with several requiring multiple points of electrical connections. Compressed air is required on several of the units, with potable water being required for the cooling of two (2) of the units. Those units will also need to be connected to a chiller. Four (4) of the equipment units will require exhaust for the generated fumes and airborne refuse. 3-1 approved by NCCCS. Stephen Sharp is working with AeORaQ Engineering to begin the design process.

This agenda item was for information only; no action was required.

2. Grants and Foundation Updates

Fundraising Update:

From July 1, 2024, through June 20, 2025 the Foundation received \$2,476,099 through 3,989 gifts, with an average contribution of \$621.

Annual Funds/Grants	\$415,585
Athletic Funds	\$206,306
Capital Funds	\$590,891
Endowment Funds	\$1,078,061
WSGE Radio	\$184,456

New Funds FY 2025

- Donny Hicks Scholarship Fund (Endowed)
- Austin Harvell Memorial Scholarship (Endowed)
- Katelyn Self Scholarship (Endowed)
- Uster/Raul Thomas Scholarship (Annual)
- Evelyn Beatty Scholarship Fund (Endowed)
- WSGE Endowment Fund
- William R. Butler Fund (Endowed)
- Plastics Advanced Research, Inc. (PART) Scholarship (Annual)
- Archie & Katherine Hufstедler Education Scholarship (Endowed)

Grants and Sponsored Programs- FY 2025

Grants Awarded:

- Bosch Community Fund- \$20,000- Skills USA and Academic Travel
- Gaston Community Foundation- \$20,000- Skills USA and Academic Travel
- High-Cost Workforce Programs- \$750,000- Sonography (Lincoln Campus)
- John M. Belk Endowment- \$20,000- Hurricane Helene Relief
- North Carolina Community College Foundation- \$5,000- Hurricane Helene Relief
- Duke Energy Foundation- \$25,000- Scalisi/Rhino Road Map
- Duke Energy Foundation-\$25,000- Electrical Systems Technology Enhancements
- Golden Leaf (Lincoln)- \$1,034,600- Lincoln Health Academy Program Funds (EMT/Paramedic/PN)
- Golden Leaf (Gaston)-\$125,000- Welding expansion and enhancement
- Cannon Foundation- \$75,000- Sonography Matching Funds

Grants and Sponsored Programs FYTD 2026

Grants Awarded-

- U.S. Department of Education- \$1,361,820- TRiO- Student Support Services*
- Title II- Title II- Adult Education and Family Literacy Act- \$278,220- Basic Skills
- CaroMont Health Foundation- \$75,000- Medical Sonography Equipment

Grants Pending:

- National Science Foundation- \$750,000- SPARC 6*
- NC State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program- \$250,000*
- Bosch Community Foundation- \$20,000- Skills USA/Academic Enrichment
- Duke Endowment- \$500,000- Lincoln Health Academy
- Gaston Community Foundation- \$20,000- Skills USA/Academic Enrichment
- Economic Development Administration - \$20,000,000- Lincoln Campus Workforce Development*

*Denotes Federal Programs

3. Health Science Education and Simulation Center Building

Project Construction Manager at Risk Presentations

A construction manager at risk evaluation committee, including Dr. John Hauser, President, Mr. Luke Upchurch, Executive Director – Foundation, Grants & Sponsorship Programs, Mr. Mack Millen, Director of Facilities Management, Mr. Mike Whiteman, Chief Financial Officer, and Mr. Stephen Sharp, Vice-President Fiber Innovation and Facilities Development, convened to discuss to eight construction managers at risk proposals. The committee chose four finalists to participate in a presentation and interview session with the Finance & Facilities Committee on August 18th, 2025, beginning at 3:15 p.m. The presentation and interview sessions are scheduled in thirty-minute increments, with twenty minutes for presentation and ten minutes allotted for questions and answers.

The Health Science Education and Simulation Center will be an expansion of the existing David Belk Cannon Health Institute on Gaston College's Dallas campus, geared towards providing training opportunities for new and existing healthcare personnel. Intended services through the new facility are to include:

- Advanced health care education and development
- High-quality continuing education with healthcare-specific certifications
- Certificates, diplomas, associate degree programs
- Workforce development programs (industry certifications)
- Apprenticeship opportunities in four health science programs
- Cutting-edge healthcare technology-driven simulation center

The construction manager at risk firms and presentation times to the Finance and Facilities Committee were:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| • Clancy & Theys | 3:15 p.m. |
| • New Atlantic / Pinnix | 3:50 p.m. |
| • Shelco | 4:25 p.m. |
| • Whiting-Turner | 5:00 p.m. |

The firms focused on the following for the presentation/interview:

- Corporate Profile
- Current workload and State projects awarded
- Proximity to and familiarity with the area where the project is located
- Past performance on similar projects
- Previous experience with Gaston College (if any)
- Approach to Historically Underutilized Business participation
- Experience with similar projects
- Approach to cost control
- Projects that were completed on or ahead of schedule.
- Contractor and subcontractor prequalification process.
- Construction administration capabilities
- Other factors which may be appropriate for the project

Per State Construction Guidelines, the Finance & Facilities Committee must recommend a minimum of three construction managers at risk firms ranked in order of preference to the Board of Trustees.

IMPLICATION FOR BUDGET

The total estimated cost of this project is \$60 million to be funded with a State Capital and Infrastructure Funds Grant.

The Finance and Facilities Committee recommended the following construction companies, (1) Shelco, (2) Whiting-Turner, (3) Clancy & Theys, in order of preference, to the Board of Trustees for final selection.

Several Trustees remarked that all three construction firms delivered strong and professional presentations. However, the Committee reached a unanimous decision to recommend Shelco based on the company's strong reputation and an already established working relationship with the institution.

Notably, Shelco previously completed the FIC building project under budget and ahead of the State Construction Office deadline, further reinforcing the Committee's confidence in their capabilities.

Chair Caldwell asked if there was any further discussion prior to moving to a vote.

As the motion originated from the Committee, no second was required. With no objections or further discussion, **the motion passed unanimously.**

E. SGA

Mr. Scott gave the following SGA update:

SGA Training

On the week of June 23, 2025, the 2025-2026 SGA student leaders and advisors met on the Dallas and Lincoln campuses for a week-long summer training session. Topics discussed included best practices in planning student events on campus, understanding the individual and team roles of the SGA members, Robert's Rules of Order, leadership skills, goal setting and team building activities.

SGA Sponsored Events

On July 16, 2025, the SGA sponsored snacks for student participants of the Lincoln Campus Rhino Rush registration event. On July 23, 2025, the SGA sponsored cool treats from Anna's Sweet Treats mobile truck for student participants during the Dallas Campus Rhino Rush registration event.

July State Board of Community Colleges Meeting

On July 17 – 18, 2025, SGA President, Bannock Scott, was sworn in as a member of the State Board of Community Colleges at the NC Community College System Office as a part of his responsibilities as the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association (N4CSGA) President. Bannock was able to attend the State Board committee meetings on Thursday, July 17th to learn more about current and new initiatives of the State Board and presented at his first State Board business meeting on July 18th as N4CSGA President.

2025-2026 SGA Initiatives

During the SGA summer training session from June 23 to June 26, the SGA discussed our team dynamics and what goals we have for the year. From these conversations, we set our three goals for the year to be Student Engagement, Incorporation of Gaston College Students with the SGA, and Increased Operational Organization of the Gaston College SGA. These three goals work in tandem to help us create a more unified experience for our Gaston College students so that they will be able to know who the SGA is and how we can help them.

F. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Caldwell shared the following:

- The NCACCT Leadership Seminar is Scheduled for September 10 – 12 in Greensboro. Those who are attending were provided a travel summary with confirmation numbers listed, along with other important information. Please also note that Dr. Hauser will be hosting attendees and spouses for dinner on Thursday evening of the Seminar.
- All Trustees were provided with an updated Trustee Contact sheet and FY 2025-26 Committee Assignments
- Reminder - All Trustees are invited to attend any committee meeting, regardless of formal membership; they are encouraged to participate in discussion at any committee meeting and allowed to vote on any action item presented except the SGA Representative.
- The Carl Stewart Dedication is on September 22 at 1:30 p.m. before the Board of Trustees Meeting. The Rhino Run for Education is being held on September 27. All Trustees were encouraged to attend both.

It was noted by Mr. Cloninger, Mr. Keigher, and Dr. Gore that their phone numbers were incorrect on the distributed NCACCT Travel summaries. Ms. Howe noted that she would make those corrections and send out the revised summaries for those attending the meeting.

G. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/REMARKS

- Gaston College was ranked in the Top 250 of the Best Vocational Schools in the U.S. by USA Today.
- The Kimbrell Campus Fiber Innovation Center was highlighted on the 5 o'clock Spectrum News. The article published included photos from the FIC ribbon-cutting ceremony, and called the Textile Technology Center a "game-changer" in the U.S. textile industry.
- Gaston College/ Lincoln County Health Academy has been selected to receive the 2025 Governor's NCWorks Award of Distinction for Outstanding Innovative Partnership!
- Congratulations to our Cosmetology and Esthetics programs at Lincoln Campus. They passed their State inspections with an incredible score of 99!

Several Trustees expressed positive feedback regarding the Immersive Technology presentation delivered during Convocation.

Dr. Hauser shared that he, along with Dr. Dellinger, Dr. Woodson, and Ms. Rupas, are currently in the early planning stages of an initiative to establish a new Immersive Technology Division. The planning team will also include Ms. McNeill and Dr. Slutsky.

This initiative aims to expand the institution's capabilities in immersive learning and emerging technologies.

H. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. Huffstetler moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Keigher seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

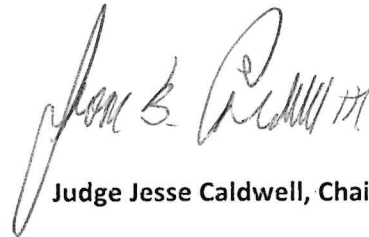
Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Shawnya Gore



Guyann Howe, Recording Secretary



Judge Jesse Caldwell, Chair

(College Seal)