

**Minutes of the
Gaston College
Board of Trustees Meeting
Myers Center, Section C
November 17, 2025**

Members Present:

Judge Jesse Caldwell, Chair
Ms. Janie Peak, Vice Chair
Dr. Shawnya Gore, Secretary
Mr. Bill Carstarphen
Mr. Jonathan Fletcher
Mr. Steve Hall
Ms. Iris Hopper
Ms. Resa Hoyle
Mr. Steve Huffstetler
Mr. Tom Keigher
Ms. Julie Stroupe
Mr. Bannock Scott, SGA President

Dr. John Hauser, President

Others Present:

Mr. Todd Baney, Ms. Tonia Broome, Mr. Brett Buchanan, Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Dr. Sam Grubbs, Ms. Guyann Howe, Ms. Elizabeth Johnson, Dr. Zachary Kendra-Dill, Ms. Meagan Lingerfelt, Ms. Andrea Lovelace, Ms. Joanne Matz, Mr. Rico McIlwain, Ms. Savonne McNeill, Mr. Mack Millen, Ms. Julie Ostrowski, Mr. Austin Price, Dr. Audrey Sherrill, Dr. Aaron Slutsky, Mr. Luke Upchurch, Mr. Richard Walker, Mr. Mike Whiteman, and Dr. Heather Woodson.

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

- **Invocation – Ms. Stroupe**
- **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. Peak moved to approve the agenda; Ms. Hoyle seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 1. September 22, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting**
- 2. October 17, 2025, Called Board of Trustees Meeting**

Chair Caldwell asked if there were any changes, additions, or corrections to the September 22, 2025, Board of Trustees Minutes and the October 17, 2025, Called Board of Trustees Minutes. None were identified.

Mr. Huffstetler moved to approve the September 22, 2025, Board of Trustees Minutes and the October 17, 2025, Called Board of Trustees Minutes; Mr. Keigher seconded the motion. The motion carried.

C. WELCOME

1. Dr. Hauser opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and extended a special welcome to Ms. Elizabeth Johnson, President of the Staff Senate, and Dr. Sam Grubbs, President of the Faculty Senate.
2. 2025 Governor's NCWorks Award of Distinction for Outstanding Innovative Partnership

Ms. Joanne Matz, Dean of the Lincoln Campus, shared highlights from the 2025 Governor's Award Banquet held in Greensboro on October 16, 2025. Approximately 500 people attended the event. Gaston College was recognized for the Lincoln County Health Academy and its groundbreaking success in addressing critical healthcare workforce shortages while expanding access to high-wage, debt-free career pathways.

3. Statement of Economic Impact (SEI) Possible Conflict of Interest

Chair Caldwell read the following Statement of Economic Interest evaluation findings from the most recent biennial evaluation (North Carolina State Ethics Commission):

- **Trustee Alan Cloninger:**
Mr. Cloninger is an At Large member of the Board of Trustees. He is an elected official for the Town of Dallas. He is an attorney in private practice. He and his spouse own stock in publicly traded companies, including Bank of America, and he has ownership interests in many closely held companies that are real estate investment for holding companies, including TAP Properties, LLC, Advantage Investment, LLC, and DDH Investments. He receives rental and business income from real estate. Because the Board can enter into contracts to buy, sell, or lease real estate, Mr. Cloninger has the potential for a conflict of interest. Accordingly, he should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should his real estate or companies, law practice, or Bank of America come before the Board for official action.
- **Trustee Jonathan Fletcher:**
Mr. Fletcher is an At Large member of the Board of Trustees. He is the Register of Deeds for Gaston County. He is a partner in the Fletcher Brand, LLC, a graphic design company. Because the Fletcher Brand could seek to do business with the College, Mr. Fletcher has the potential

for a conflict of interest. Accordingly, he should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should The Fletcher Brand come before the Board for official action.

- **Trustee Steve Huffstetler:**
Mr. Huffstetler is an At Large member of the Board of Trustees. He is a senior vice president with Alliance Bank and Trust, and his spouse is a real estate agent with Pro-Stead Realty. Because the Board can designate banking institutions and enter into contracts to buy, sell, or lease real estate, Mr. Huffstetler has the potential for a conflict of interest. Accordingly, he should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties, should Alliance Bank and Trust or Pro-Stead Realty come before the Board for official action.
- **Trustee Jesse Caldwell:**
Judge Caldwell is an At Large member and chair of the Board of Trustees. He is a North Carolina Superior Court Judge (emergency), and he works as a mediator. He owns stock in publicly traded companies including JPMorgan Chase and Trane Technologies. He sits on the boards of several nonprofits, including chairing the Miriam S. and William T. Hall Jr. Foundation. Because JPMorgan Chase or Trane could seek to do business with the College, Judge Caldwell has the potential for a conflict of interest. Accordingly, he should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should an entity in which he has financial interest comes before the Board of official action.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Ms. Hopper presented the following items:

1. Policy 4-31 Confidentiality and Access of Student Records

N.C. Session Law 2025-46, Leon's Law, became effective July 1, 2025, and requires community colleges to establish policy that provides education records of all minor students under the age of 18 to their parents or legal guardians, regardless of the student's consent, if the student is a dependent.

The policy 4-31 was reformatted to include policy and procedure sections and revised to align with Leon's Law requirements including the following additions:

1. Mandatory Student Acknowledgment Form
2. Parent/Guardian Opt-Out
3. Parent Tax Dependency Certification
4. Expansion of FERPA Exception
5. Procedural Timing and Requirements

Due to significant changes to this policy, reviewing the former policy with all of the changes would have been difficult to review. Therefore, the former policy is provided for reference and denoted as "Old Policy," and the new, re-formatted and revised policy was provided as a separate document.

Mr. Baney added that all of the policies presented were vetted not only by the Administrative Services Committee but also by the internal Policy Review Committee. Additionally, some policies were reviewed and edited by Parker Poe Attorneys.

The Administrative Services Committee recommends that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the proposed changes to Policy 4-31, Confidentiality and Access of Student Records, as presented.

Coming from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion **the Motion Carried.**

2. Policy 5-34 Faculty Qualifications

Revisions are noted on the policy in red colored font.

- Section D.1. Revised to reference other accrediting bodies in addition to SACSCOC.
- Section D.1.d. Added to clarify the qualifications for faculty teaching diploma or certificate courses not intended for transfer to a baccalaureate degree, and to allow for alternative qualifications beyond traditional academic degrees, including:
 - Industry certifications
 - Professional licensures
 - Documented work experience (e.g., employer letters)
 - Related coursework
 - Portfolios
- Section D.2. Revised to emphasize that overall qualifications—not just academic credentials—should be considered when evaluating faculty.

The Administrative Services Committee recommends that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve Policy 5-34, Faculty Qualifications, as presented.

Coming from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion **the Motion Carried.**

3. Policy 6-1 Financial Management

1. The proposed revisions to this policy were summarized on the version marked “Old Policy.” The revisions were minor and mostly deletions of statements to more accurately reflect current practices.
2. However, in reviewing the “Old Policy,” it was determined that overall, it needed to be reworded and reformatted.
3. The “Old Policy” was provided for reference; however, for ease of reading, a newly revised version with the rewording and reformatting was provided without MS Word’s Track Changes.

The Administrative Services Committee recommends that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve Policy 6-1, Financial Management, as presented.

Coming from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion **the Motion Carried.**

4. Policy 6-8 Auxiliary Services

1. The proposed revisions to this policy were summarized on the version marked "Old Policy." The revisions were minor to more accurately reflect current practices.
2. However, in reviewing the "Old Policy," it was determined that overall, it needed to be reworded and reformatted.
3. The "Old Policy" is provided for reference; however, for ease of reading, a newly revised version with the rewording and reformatting was provided without MS Word's Track Changes. Note that in this newly revised version, an additional procedural change was made and reviewed by the Administrative Services Committee. This change was to delete 7.e. (related to refunds for digital book fees) from the procedure, in which a statement related to fee refunds will be added to the Tuition and Fee Refunds policy and procedure (Policy 4-12) in the future.

The Administrative Services Committee recommends that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve Policy 6-8 Auxiliary Services as presented.

Coming from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion **the Motion Carried.**

5. Policy 6-10 Construction

The college currently has the following policies related to construction:

- Policy 6-10 Construction of Facilities
- Policy 6-11 Construction Contracts
- Policy 6-12 Payment of Project Construction Invoices

Since these three policies all pertain to construction, they have been consolidated into a single document: Policy 6-10, now titled "Construction." This consolidation did not result in substantive changes to the original content; however, the language has been revised and the formatting updated for clarity and consistency.

To support your review of the updated policy, the original versions were included and labeled as "Old Policy." The new, combined Policy 6-10 Construction was presented without Microsoft Word's Track Changes for ease of reading.

Mr. Baney added that consolidating these policies provided an opportunity to streamline the processes.

A question was raised regarding whether the revisions would give the President sole authority to approve all construction projects. It was clarified that all construction projects remain heavily governed by the State, and approvals by the Board of Trustees simply authorize the President to administer the projects. Contractors, architects, and similar parties will continue to be approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Administrative Services Committee recommends consolidating Policies 6-10 Construction of Facilities, 6-11 Construction Contracts, and 6-12 Payment of Project Construction Invoices into a single, unified policy titled Policy 6-10 Construction. Further, the Committee recommends that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the newly revised Policy 6-10 Construction as presented.

Coming from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion **the Motion Carried.**

6. Policy 7-3 Technology Services

The proposed changes include editorial modifications to position titles and that when employees sign the Acceptable Use Policy, they are attesting to having read it and are responsible for violations of the policy. The entire policy with the proposed changes is attached; however, for ease of review, the proposed changes to the applicable sections of the policy are noted below and in red font.

B.1. Access and privileges of Gaston College's information systems are assigned and managed by the Chief **Technology Information Officer (CIO) and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)**. Users may not, under any circumstances, transfer or confer these privileges to other individuals. Any account assigned to an individual shall not be used by others.

B.7. Faculty and staff users are required to read, understand and sign the Acceptable Use Policy relating to access to and use of Gaston College computer resources. **By signing the Network/Email Access Form, employees agree that they have read the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) in its entirety and take responsibility for any and all actions that may violate the AUP.** These documents will be maintained by **the Office of Technology Services the Chief Technology Officer**. Students are required to read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy. Access to the agreement for students is in the Student Handbook. Documents for those students accessing the network/Internet in the Morris Library will be maintained by the Reference/Instruction Librarian.

The Administrative Services Committee recommends that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve Policy 7-3, Technology Services, as presented.

Coming from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion **the Motion Carried**

7. Policy 7-7 Electronic Resources Acceptable Use

The proposed changes included editorial modifications to position titles and a division name, plus an added reference that the use of Electronic Resources for personal reasons is not to impact bandwidth or security of the network. The entire policy with the proposed changes was attached; however, for ease of review, the proposed changes to the applicable sections of the policy are noted below and in red font.

C. Acceptable Use

Access to and privileges of *College Electronic Resources* are managed by the Chief Information Officer (CIO), Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Chief Technology Officer (CTO) or designee. By accepting access to and privileges of *College Electronic Resources*, users agree to comply with the Electronic Resources "Rules for Acceptable Use."

E.2. The use of any *College Electronic Resources* for email must be related to College business and academic activities. Incidental and occasional use of *College Electronic Resources* for personal reasons may occur when such use does not generate a direct cost to the College or impact bandwidth or security of the network. For employees of the College, incidental and occasional use of *College Electronic Resources* for personal reasons also must not detract from the time necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities of their position with the College. All uses of College email and *College Electronic Resources* are subject to the provisions of this policy.

E.5. To the extent permitted by law, the College reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of a user's email, or other use of *College Electronic Resources*, without the consent of the user. Access and review of employee email must be authorized by the President or the Vice President responsible for Technology Services. Access and review of student email, or other use of *College Electronic Resources*, must be authorized by the President, Vice President for Student Services Affairs, or the Vice President responsible for Technology Services. Access and review of email may be done when there is a legitimate reason to do so including, but not limited to:

The Administrative Services Committee recommends that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve Policy 7-7 Electronic Resources Acceptable Use as presented.

Coming from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion **the Motion Carried.**

8. Policy 7-8 Electronic Resources Rules for Acceptable Use

The proposed changes clarify that any public or shared device should not be used to conduct e-commerce, and editorial changes to position titles. The entire policy with the proposed changes was attached; however, for ease of review, the proposed changes to the applicable sections of the policy are noted below and in red font.

B.3. Unless specifically designated, no campus computer or any public or shared device should be used to conduct credit card (e-commerce) or banking transactions.

B.14. Only systems, devices, or files containing sensitive College data are required and permitted to utilize encryption techniques approved by the Chief Information Security Technology Services Officer (CISO) (CTSO) to protect the data in the event of unauthorized physical access to the system, devices, or files. Passwords to these entities must be provided to Technology Services in a sealed envelope to be stored in a secure location. The (CISO) CTSO will specify the method for encryption and report to the Vice President for Finance, Operations, and Facilities President on the implementation and security of the electronic certificates and key management system.

The Administrative Services Committee recommends that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve Policy 7-8, Electronic Resources Rules for Acceptable Use, as presented.

Coming from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion **the Motion Carried.**

9. Hurricane Helene Increased Mental Health Support Funding

The NC Disaster Recovery Act of 2024 – Part II was signed into law in October 2024. This Act in part established the Hurricane Helene Disaster Recovery Fund and included nonrecurring funding in the amount of \$58,431 to Gaston College to increase mental health support for students and employees.

Mental health challenges—including stress, anxiety, and burnout—are increasingly recognized as critical issues across society, underscoring the need for stronger support systems and heightened awareness. This need became even more evident in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

A cross-divisional team from Student Services and Administrative Services was formed to develop a utilization plan to allocate funds. This team worked diligently on this project from November 2024 through June 2025. Below is a list of support services and activities made available to both students and employees:

- Training, Education, and Workshops for Students and Employees
 - Employees: Professional Development (PD) Day Keynote on Mental Health & Wellness
 - Employees: PD Day Breakout Sessions on Mental Health & Wellness
 - Employees: PD Day Mygroup EAP Mental Health & Wellness Presentations
 - Employees: 4 Mental Health & Wellness Workshops
 - Students: 2 Mental Health & Wellness Workshops
- Students: Expanded “Headspace” App for a 2-year period
- Students: Massage Chairs and Aromatherapy activities from Lightning Events at Health Fair
- Students and Employees: Stress Reliever Rhinos for Health Fair and Employee Benefits Fair
- Employees: Expanded EAP services to part-time employees for a 3-year contract
- Students: Mental & Emotional Well-Being Brochures from PaperClip Communications
- Students and Employees: Journaling Notebooks with journaling tips
- Attended UNC Behavioral Health Convening Conference

This was an informational item; no action required.

E. ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. Level-Two Instructional Service Agreement (ISA) for Medical Sonography

In Mr. Lee’s absence, Dr. Dewey Dellinger reported that Gaston College will begin instruction for the new medical sonography program in January 2026. Twelve students have been competitively accepted for the program. The College has hired one faculty member, who also serves as the program’s clinical coordinator, Bridget Niemeyer. Bridget began work at the College on October 1, 2025. We are still working to hire a faculty member/program director. Since we do not have two faculty members at this time, we have entered into an Instructional Service Agreement (ISA) with South Piedmont Community College (SPCC) to teach one lecture course for us in Spring 2026 (synchronous online delivery). SPCC and Gaston College will share the FTE for this course equally.

This ISA will remain in effect until a second faculty member is hired by Gaston College. Dr. Dellinger thanked Ms. Woodson for her continued work on this program.

This item was for informational purposes only; no action required.

F. FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Huffstetler pointed out that all items being presented had been fully vetted during the Committee meeting on November 10, 2025.

1. Approval of State Budget Package

The College's State Operational Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Budget increased \$3,630,723 or 10.0% to \$40,065,344 for fiscal year 2026. In addition to the baseline State Operating FTE Based Budget, the College's Categorical Allocation increased \$13,337 or .5% to \$2,469,669 for fiscal year 2026.

State FTE Allocation Fiscal 2025 vs. 2026

	Fiscal 25*	Fiscal 26	\$ Increase	% Increase
A. BUDGET FTE*				
Curriculum	4,614	5,029	415	
Workforce Con Ed	450	583	133	
Basic Skills	247	241	(6)	
	5,311	5,853	542	10.2%
B. FORMULA ALLOCATION - Current Operating				
Curriculum Instruction	\$ 20,541,801	\$ 22,519,845	\$ 1,978,044	
Workforce Continuing Education	1,490,337	2,003,694	513,357	
Basic Skills Instruction - State	691,340	712,363	21,023	
Institutional Support	13,178,450	14,356,872	1,178,422	
Performance-Based Allocation	532,693	472,570	(60,123)	
Formula Allocation	36,434,621	40,065,344	3,630,723	10.0%
C. OTHER CATEGORICALS:				
Career & Technical Education	302,859	266,807	(36,052)	
Child Care Grants	66,092	67,855	1,763	
Small Business Center	171,805	174,348	2,543	
Customized Training Business & Industry Supp	60,000	60,000	-	
Equipment	1,032,207	1,064,004	31,797	
Instructional Resources	53,324	54,202	878	
Center for Applied Textile Center Technology	770,045	782,453	12,408	
Categorical Allocations	2,456,332	2,469,669	13,337	0.5%
Total allocation	\$ 38,890,953	\$ 42,535,013	\$ 3,644,060	9.4%

* adjusted for the Enrollment Growth Reserve which was received after the November 2024 Board Approval.

The FY 2025-26 State Operating FTE Based Budget and other categorical allocation totals \$42,535,013, an increase of \$3,644,060.

It was further explained that this Budget Package does not include any salary increases or a decision on the Textile Technology recurring funds request.

The Finance & Facilities Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the FY 2025-26 State Budget.

Coming from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion **the Motion Carried.**

2. Supplemental State Budget Allocation

The College's net increase in Supplemental State Budget Allocations through October 2025 was \$3,724,379. Customized Training received an additional \$125,668 allocation for fiscal 2026.

Description	State Current
High-Cost Health Care Workforce Start-Up - Carryforward	\$ 818,170
Adult Basic Education - Carryforward	72,157
Apprenticeship Building America -	12,390
Apprenticeship Expansion - Carryforward	200,404
Equipment - Carryforward	896,952
Books - Carryforward	12,817
Base Skills PBF - Carryforward	1
Other PBF - Carryforward	3,163
Perkins - Carryforward	24,109
BioNetwork	864,811
Short-Term Workforce Development	7,435
Finish Line Grants	26,211
Disaster Recovery Act of 2024	124
Adult Basic Education	253,759
Title II Corrections Education and Other Institutionalized Individuals	24,461
Faculty Recruitment and Retention	211,937
Nursing Faculty Salary Adjustment	197,622
Career Coach	148,163
Apprenticeship Recall	(6,000)
Apprenticeship Recall	(44,307)
Total	\$3,724,379

Customized Training – Reconciliation As of October 2025	Year to Date Total
LNS	\$ 5,368
Parkdale Mills	18,010
OWENS #4	5,510
Husky	3,905
Huber Technology Inc	6,795
Bosch Hand Tools	7,480
Blum #3	78,600
Total	\$ 125,668

This is for information; no action was required.

3. Financial Reports

Summaries of expenditures for month-end October 2025, for State, Gaston, and Lincoln operating budgets and proprietary accounts were provided.

State: State budget **non-categorical** spending was 31.4% spent at the end of October 2025. Results will fluctuate based on receipt of supplemental funding and the timing of one-time operational spending.

Categorical: Overall spending is at 26.1% 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: 32.3% of the Gaston County budget and 31.3% of the Lincoln County budget has been spent as of the end of October 2025. Finance continues to manage county spending using other funding sources as needed.

Proprietary:

The overall report is three pages, representing three categories of funds.

1. Student Fees
2. Auxiliary Activities
3. Other Activities

An overview of all student fees for fiscal 2026 was presented.

- **Total Revenue from Student Fees:** \$1,410,487
- **Total Expenses:** \$1,502,952

- **Net Loss:** (\$92,466) – The overall loss is due to timing and will be corrected as revenue is collected. Many of the recorded expenses are non-recurring and are paid early in the year.
- **Total Cash on Hand:** \$4.77 million
- **Key Fee Categories:** Access, Excess, Lab, Student Activity, and Technology Fees

An overview of all auxiliary activities for fiscal 2026 was presented. This activity includes the Fire Training Facility and Textile Center Testing.

- **Total Revenue:** \$1,395,823
- **Total Expenses:** \$1,788,077
- **Net Loss:** (\$392,254) – Several factors are contributing to the year-to date loss
 - Athletic expenses are typically not reimbursed until the Spring when fundraising occurs.
 - Fire training – a meeting with the CFO and the VP for Economic and Workforce Development has been scheduled to evaluate the pricing structure, the increase in offered trainings and the projected income for the year.
 - The Textile Center
 - Has accumulated cash over the past few years and used those cash reserves for a one-time grant match to assist with the purchase of machinery.
 - We also plan to use cash reserves to fund approximately \$285K in Spinning Room electrical connections.
 - These amounts will be reimbursed should the \$4M in state funding or some portion thereof be received prior to the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2026).
- **Cash on Hand:** \$2.3 million
- **Major Contributors:** Athletics, Fire Training Facility, Textile Center Equipment Purchases.
- **Investments:** \$500,000 in principal with an interest balance of \$208,450.

An overview of all other activities for fiscal 2026 was presented.

- **Total Revenue:** \$532,912
- **Total Expenses:** \$663,536
- **Net Loss:** (\$130,623)
- Going forward, the H&S Education and Simulation Center will show a loss as all of the revenue was received in the prior year, and we will be spending it down as architectural and construction invoices come due.
- **Cash on Hand:** \$62.21 million
- **Investments:** \$61.7 million in principal with an interest balance of \$87,261.

There was a discussion regarding where the \$60 million for the Health and Science Simulation Center had been invested. Mr. Whiteman explained that the College is restricted in its investment options and that all interest earned must be reinvested in the project.

This was for information; no action was required.

4. Capital Reports:

The following highlights were shared:

Comer Engineering Technology (CET) Steam Plant Renovation Project:

SCO has provided comments and Morris-Berg and AME are providing follow up information as needed.

Robinson Classroom Building (RCB) Steam Plant Project:

SCO has provided comments and Morris-Berg and AME are providing follow up information as needed.

De-escalation Center:

Action Targets has started the process of building the structure and components. An address was assigned to the site which allowed the City of Gastonia Zoning Department to approve the project to proceed. The design documents were provided to Gaston County for review. Per Joe Humphrey with C Design they have been fully approved and we are ready to start the bidding process for construction services. Permit Number: BLDC-25-04-04-02430

Health Science Education and Simulation Center:

The Schematic Design phase meetings were held and Morris-Berg is preparing site plan concepts and floor plan/massing models for approval.

Fiber Innovation Center Extrusion Equipment Connections:

The project was awarded to Dallas Electric. They will be providing a construction timeline which will be presented soon.

Fiber Innovation Center Process Chiller:

Project RFP was posted, and pre-bid conference was held on 10/30/25. Bid opening will be on 11/21/25.

Minor Project –Rauch Science and Fine Arts Building Lab Hood Exhaust System:

The project is at approximately 95% completed. Components needed are on order. Testing and Balance was performed with some issues identified for repairs.

Trustee Hall shared that he has reached out to the Gaston County Commissioners for their support in repairing or replacing our Burn Building, Gaston College's Fire Training Facility. Mr. Millen explained the building's As-Built date is November 13, 1990, making it 35 years old and at a stage where major structural work is required. The tower was originally designed with ten (10) burn sites. With rooms 201 and 301 now out of service, four (4) sites have been lost, leaving six (6) operational sites. We have obtained two repair quotes to return rooms 201 and 301 to service:

- Padgenite Interlock Burn Liner System: \$917,500
- Thermoblast Lining System: \$982,935

The full structural evaluation from Elliott, LeBoeuf & McElwain estimates:

- \$2M+ needed for overall structural repairs
- \$10M+ for a new 17,000 sq. ft. burn building

- An option for a 4,000 sq. ft. addition at \$3M+, plus structural repairs at \$2M+, totaling \$5M+

Since the 2018 survey, \$440,750 has already been invested in concrete repairs and \$11,000 in heat shields, but substantial needs remain.

Dr. Hauser said he would be following up with the County Commissioners on this subject and would appreciate the support of the Trustees.

5. Grants and Foundation Updates

Fundraising Update:

From July 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025 the Foundation received \$298,046 through 1,758 gifts, with an average contribution of \$170.

Annual Funds/Grants	\$122,083
Athletic Funds	\$83,256
Endowment Funds	\$17,522
WSGE Radio	\$75,060

New Scholarship Funds FY 2026

- Rafalow Vet Tech Scholarship
- Clifton and Flora Walton Scholarship
- Greg Smith Scholarship
- Metropolitan Woodworks Scholarship
- James A. Crawford Jr. Award for Excellence

Grants and Sponsored Programs- FY 2026

Grants Awarded:

- U.S. Department of Education- TRiO- Student Support Services- \$1,361,820*
- CaroMont Health- Medical Sonography Support- \$75,000
- Bosch Community Fund- Skills USA/Academic Enrichment- \$30,000
- NC State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program- \$185,000- I.T. Infrastructure*
- Gaston Community Foundation- \$20,000- Skills USA/Academic Enrichment

Grants Pending:

- National Science Foundation- \$750,000- SPARC 6*
- National Science Foundation- \$2,510,542- Textile Engines*
- Cotton Inc.- \$39,980- Textile Curriculum Program*
- Duke Endowment- \$500,000- Lincoln Health Academy
- Economic Development Administration - \$20,000,000- Lincoln Campus Workforce Development*

*Federal Funded Grants

This was for information; no action was required.

G. SGA

Mr. Scott gave the following SGA update:

OneBlood Blood Drive

On September 16 and 17, 2025, the SGA sponsored a blood drive in partnership with OneBlood by hosting the OneBlood mobile bus in Parking Lot J of the Dallas Campus for students, faculty, and staff to donate. Through this two-day donation event, 37 donors partnered with OneBlood to donate to patients in need in our surrounding communities.

SGA New Senator Training

On September 26, 2025, the SGA hosted a one-day training session on the Dallas Campus for seven new members of the Gaston College SGA. These new SGA Senators were installed at the October 2, 2025 SGA Business Meeting and bring the Gaston College SGA to a full board of fourteen student leaders. The training day was provided to help these new student leaders learn about Robert's Rules of Order, student event planning, student leadership etiquette and overall team building.

N4CSGA Fall Division Meeting & Fall Conference

On September 20, 2025, the SGA travelled with six student leaders and two advisors to Forsyth Technical Community College to participate in the N4CSGA Fall Division Meeting event with fellow Western North Carolina schools.

From October 16 to October 19, 2025, seven of Gaston College SGA's student leaders and two advisors were able to attend the N4CSGA 2025 Fall Conference. The entire conference experience was brought together by Alexis Odell through her role as Vice President, and the conference was seen as an overall success by student leaders, advisors and guests in attendance.

Bunny Blessings

On October 2, 2025, the SGA assisted to sponsor Bunny Blessings on the Dallas Campus for students to engage with this animal therapy event. The Belmont based business of Bunny Blessings was able to visit the Myers Center Breezeway between 12:00pm and 1:00pm on this Thursday to help students and employees interact with almost a dozen bunnies as a stress-free event.

SGA 2025-2026 Goals Update

The SGA's Campus Activities Committee and Public Information Committee have been hard at work at creating engaging and informed events and marketing to help cater the student experience to the students we represent. The Campus Activities Committee saw success in our Club Day event; The Hispanic Heritage Month event also saw success; The Public Information has continued their "Fun Fact Fridays" series, creating more engaging posts on our social media pages.

The SGA is currently working on creating a "Crash Bash" event, with the intent of keeping student engagement as high as possible in the spring semester and creating a livelier atmosphere throughout the spring.

H. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Caldwell shared the following:

- The Board Self-Evaluation Survey will come out in December. Please be sure to get it completed, as this is a very good way to know what is working for the Board and any areas where improvement could be addressed. The results will be discussed during the February 6th Board Retreat.

Faculty/Staff Christmas Luncheon	December 11, 2025	TBD	Myers Center
Committee Meetings	January 12, 2026	TBD	MCMA, Section B
Board of Trustees Meeting	January 20, 2026	TBD	MCMA, Section C
Board of Trustees Retreat	February 6, 2026	8:30 AM	Gaston Country Club
NCACCT Spring 2026 Law-Legislative Seminar	April 22-24, 2026	TBD	Raleigh - Embassy Suites

I. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/REMARKS

Dr. Hauser introduced and welcomed Mr. Brett Buchanan, Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development. He also encouraged the Trustees to review the seventeen pages of his report and the divisional reports to stay informed about the many great initiatives taking place at Gaston College.

Dr. Hauser shared information about two grants the College is currently pursuing:

- U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant:
Gaston College, in collaboration with Lincoln County, is requesting \$20 million in federal funding through the EDA-2025-DISASTER initiative to support the construction of a 34,000-square-foot Workforce Development Center on the Lincoln Campus. The total estimated project cost is \$24 million.
- Department of Defense (DoD) Revolutionary Fibers and Textiles Manufacturing Innovation Institute Consortium (RFTC) Grant: This grant is being pursued in collaboration with NC State, Drexel University, Georgia Tech, and UMass Lowell. The initiative would span ten years with a total value of \$450 million.

J. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

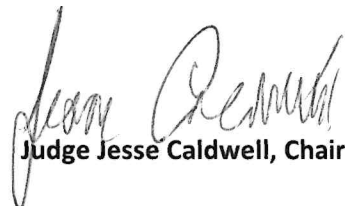
Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Shawnya Gore



Guyann Howe, Recording Secretary



Judge Jesse Caldwell, Chair

(College Seal)