

**Minutes of the
Gaston College
Board of Trustees Meeting
Myers Center, Section C
March 23, 2026**

Members Present: Judge Jesse Caldwell, Chair
Ms. Janie Peak, Vice Chair
Dr. Shawnya Gore, Secretary
Mr. Bill Carstarphen
Mr. Alan Cloninger
Mr. John Dancoff
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, Ms. Sarah Day, Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Mr. Micajah Hanna, Dr. Sam Grubbs, Ms. Guyann Howe, Dr. Zachary Kendra-Dill, Ms. Elizabeth Johnson, Ms. Meagan Lingerfelt, Ms. Andrea Lovelace, Mr. Rico McIlwain, Ms. Savonne McNeill, Mr. Mack Millen, Ms. Alexis Odell, Ms. Julie Ostrowski, Mr. Austin Price, Mr. Stephen Sharp, Dr. Audrey Sherrill, Dr. Aaron Slutsky, Mr. Luke Upchurch, Mr. Richard Walker.

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. 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.

Mr. Huffstetler moved to approve the agenda; Dr. Gore seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. January 20, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting
2. February 6, 2026, Retreat and Called Board of Trustees Meeting

Chair Caldwell asked if there were any changes, additions, or corrections to the January 20, 2026, or the February 6, 2026, Board of Trustees Minutes.

Trustee Carstarphen noted that he was in attendance for the February 6, 2026, Board of Trustees Retreat and Called Board meeting. Ms. Howe acknowledged that the minutes would be amended to reflect his attendance.

Ms. Peak moved to approve the January 20, 2026, Board of Trustees Minutes and the amended February 6, 2026, Retreat and Called Board of Trustees minutes; Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

C. WELCOME

1. Dr. Hauser opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and extending a special welcome to Ms. Elizabeth Johnson, President of the Staff Senate, and Dr. Sam Grubbs, President of the Faculty Senate.

D. ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

In Mr. Lee's absence, Dr. Dellinger presented the following action item, which was vetted during the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting on March 16, 2026.

1. Faculty Senate Constitution and By-Laws Revision

Policy 5-40 (Faculty Senate) states that the Board of Trustees (BOT) will approve a Governance Constitution and any amendments to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate.

The BOT passed the most recent Faculty Senate (FS) Constitution and By-Laws at its September 23, 2019 meeting. A copy of the constitution was not included in the BOT minutes, and the approved version was never posted, so the FS has operated under what has been presumed to be the approved version.

The FS recently proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws. These were approved by the faculty by a vote of 60 to 1 in favor of the proposed changes. A summary of proposed changes are as follows and a red-lined revision is included on the following pages:

- An individual must have successfully completed employment probation and must have been employed for at least one year to be eligible to serve on the FS.

- The FS shall consist of a minimum of thirteen members based on the allotment shown below with any future divisional changes leading to a realignment of Senators requiring approval of the FS. New terms will commence at the beginning of the fall semester.
 - Arts & Science – Four (4) Senators
 - Health and Human Services – Four (4) Senators
 - Career and Technical Education – Four (4) Senators
 - Public Safety – One (1) Senator
- Senate member terms shall be staggered. Senators may only serve two consecutive terms. After an absence of one year, a previous Senate faculty member may seek re-election.
- Terms of office for officers may be up to two (2) years.

Dr. Grubbs, President of the Faculty Senate, reported that the revised Faculty Senate Constitution and By-Laws had been approved by the Faculty, with only one dissenting vote.

There is no anticipated negative impact on the budget. The revised minutes will be labeled as Appendix A and included in the official minutes.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommended that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the Faculty Senate Constitution and By-Laws as presented.

As the recommendation came from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion, **the motion carried.**

The redlined version, along with the adopted minutes are provided on the following pages.

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE GASTON COLLEGE FACULTY SENATE
Revised September 23, 2019

This constitution was adopted March 25, 1996.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Faculty Senate shall be to provide the means by which the faculty is enabled to fulfill its function with respect to academic and educational policies and other affairs of Gaston College. The Senate was is established in accordance with the Gaston College Board of Trustees Resolution, as adopted March 28, 1994, whereby the said Senate is designated and empowered as the official representative voice of the faculty. The Senate shall be a representative body, and the general faculty shall be the electorate. The Senate shall serve as an advisory body representing the general faculty, and shall consist of elected and ex-officio members. The Faculty Senate and the various committees on which the faculty serve shall be the official media for the essential joint effort of faculty and administration of Gaston College. The Senate shall work to facilitate communication, which will enable continuing and effective faculty participation in the operation and affairs of the college.

II. Definitions

- A. Unless otherwise specified, the designation "President" as used herein shall mean the President of the Faculty Senate.
- B. The term "Faculty" as used herein shall mean those individuals employed by Gaston College on a full-time basis in a teaching or instructional capacity. However, faculty serving in an administrative role, such as an Associate Dean or above will not be eligible to be a senator.

III. Membership

| A. Qualifications

- 1. To be eligible to serve on the Senate as an elected representative, an individual must be a full-time Faculty member of Gaston College (employed on a 9–12 month contract), must have successfully completed employment probation in accordance with Policy 3-41 Employment Probation, and must have been employed for at least one year.
- 2. The Vice President for Academic Affairs of the college shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Faculty Senate.

B. Selection

- 1. The Senate shall consist of a minimum of thirteen ~~twelve~~ members.

apportioned by percentage according to the number of full-time faculty members assigned to each division or current organizational equivalent. Accordingly, each division will stagger the term of its representatives so that its odd-numbered representatives will serve a two-year term, and the even-numbered representatives will initially serve a one-year term in order to establish staggered terms. Odd and even numbers will be determined alphabetically.

Thereafter, elections shall be for two-year terms.

2. Senate representation shall be based on the following allotment:
 - Arts and Science – Four (4) Senators
 - Health and Human Services – Four (4) Senators
 - Career and Technical Education – Four (4) Senators
 - Public Safety – One (1) Senator
3. Any future new division or split in division may lead to a realignment of Senators or additional Senators being added. These changes require approval of Faculty Senate.
4. Elections shall be held in April. The new terms will commence at the beginning of the Fall semester. ~~April meeting.~~
5. The President of the Senate shall appoint tellers to receive and tally the votes from each division. The tellers shall submit the names of elected Senate delegates to the President of the Senate immediately following annual elections, or the filling of a vacancy.
6. When a member fails to attend three consecutive regular Senate meetings for reasons other than from nine-month employment and/or official leave, and unless the individual sends a proxy/substitute, a vacancy will exist and the division represented by that individual will elect another representative to serve the remainder of that individual's term of office. A written or electronic proxy must be presented or collected at the meeting, which the senator missed.
7. When a Senate member is to be away from campus for a period of two or more months, the President of the Senate may ask the representative's division to appoint an alternate from the same division to serve for this period of absence.

C. Term of Office

1. Senate terms of office for elected representatives shall be two years, except when the Senator is elected to an office. ~~In this case, the Senator's term will be two years from the time of election.~~

2. Senate member terms shall be staggered, so that only half of the positions expire per year. This aids in preventing major turnover in Senators, and ensures continuity with experienced members.
3. Senators may only serve two consecutive terms.
4. After an absence of one year, a previous Senate faculty member may seek re-election.
5. A division can, by two-thirds vote of its total membership, recall any of its senators.
6. When a vacancy occurs in any elected senatorial position, the division wherein the vacancy occurred shall elect a representative to complete the unexpired term.
7. A senator who wishes to resign shall submit a letter of resignation specifying the effective date of resignation to the President of the Senate. Copies shall be sent to the Secretary of the Senate.
8. When a member fails to attend three consecutive regular Senate meetings for reasons other than from nine-month employment and/or official leave, and unless the individual sends a proxy/substitute, a vacancy will exist and the division represented by that individual will elect another representative to serve the remainder of that individual's term of office. A written or electronic proxy must be presented or collected at the meeting which the senator missed.
9. When a Senate member is to be away from campus for a period of two or more months, the President of the Senate may ask the representative's division to appoint an alternate from the same division to serve for this period of absence.

IV. Meetings

1. Regular meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be held once a month during the calendar year. Special meetings may be called by the President of the Senate, or upon the written request of five members of the Senate or ten members of the Faculty

A. Agenda

1. The agenda for each meeting shall be prepared by the President of the Senate in consultation with the officers of the Senate.
2. The agenda of regular meetings shall include:

Call to order
Approval of the Minutes
Special Reports

Report of the President of the Senate
Committee Reports
Old Business
New Business
Announcements

3. Items for Senate consideration may be presented, in writing, by any member of the Faculty. Such requests shall be sent at least one week before the scheduled meeting to the President of the Senate, who may add the items to the agenda of the next meeting. Items presented by five or more members of the Faculty shall be added to the agenda of the next meeting.
4. The agenda shall be followed unless set aside by two-thirds majority of those present.
5. The agenda and the minutes of Senate meetings shall be distributed via the Faculty Senate homepage on the Gaston College Intranet.

B. Conduct of Business

1. A quorum of the Senate shall consist of a simple majority of the voting members. When a meeting cannot be held or must adjourn because the quorum needed to conduct business is not present, a formal roll call shall be entered in the minutes.
2. Any proposal which comes before the Senate under "New Business" but has not been included on the distributed agenda, shall be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration. Such a proposal shall not be acted upon at the same session in which it is introduced except by a vote of two-thirds of those present.
3. Committee reports placed on the agenda should be presented by a representative of that committee, who shall have the implied consent of the Senate to speak during any debate concerning that report.
4. Faculty who are not members of the Senate may be present at Senate meetings but shall not be entitled to vote or make motions.
5. The President of the Senate may grant non-senators the privilege to speak.
6. All meetings of the Faculty Senate, excepting those which have been called into executive session, are open to all Faculty members and interested others.
7. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guide for conducting each meeting.

C. Voting

1. Voting in the Senate shall be by voice vote unless a majority of the members call for a secret ballot. The record of the vote shall be announced and entered into the minutes.
2. The President of the Senate shall have a vote only in case of a tie.
3. All elections shall be by written ballot. The President shall appoint tellers for each election and shall read into the minutes the names of those elected.
4. For elections conducted within the Senate, an individual must receive a plurality of the votes cast to be elected.
5. A member of the Senate may send a full-time faculty member to act as his/her substitute. The substitute must have a written proxy. A person may only vote once. A non-senator may vote if he/she is representing a senator. All proxies must be available at the time any vote is taken.

D. Executive Session

1. The President of the Senate shall have the power to declare an executive session. In addition, a majority vote of the Faculty Senate members have the power to call an executive session of the Senate.

V. Officers

A. Elected Senate Officers

1. President. The President shall preside at Senate meetings, serve as President of the Faculty, oversee the work of the Senate and its committees, and carry out the responsibilities specified in these Bylaws. The Faculty Senate President may request from the Vice President for Academic Affairs three (3) contact hours of release time to perform the duties of the office.
 - a. The President of the Senate shall appoint members of all standing committees of the Senate as needed.
 - b. Advise the President of the College and Vice President of Academic Affairs and other senior college administrators on matters of mutual concern to both administration and faculty at such times that the full Senate is unable to convene.
2. Vice President. In addition to duties delegated by the President, the Vice President shall carry out the responsibilities of the President when the President is absent. The Vice President shall succeed the President if the office of President becomes vacant in the middle of the term.
3. Secretary. The Secretary shall oversee the work of the Faculty Senate, keep the minutes and maintain the records of the Senate and the Senate officers, and shall provide for faculty access to such records. The minutes

shall be sent to Faculty Senate members within 14 calendar days of the meeting.

4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain all budgets and conduct the financial business of the Senate.

B. Election of Officers and Terms of Office

1. All Senate officers shall be elected at the April meeting. The past year's president will preside over the election of his/her successor. All Faculty Senate officers shall take office effective as of the beginning of the Fall Semester.
2. In the event that an officer's position (except the position of President) becomes vacant, the President shall promptly conduct an election to fill the
3. Terms of office for officers of the Senate ~~are~~ may be up to two years.

C. Appointees

1. Parliamentarian. The President of the Senate shall appoint a parliamentarian to advise the Senate on matters of parliamentary procedure necessary to the orderly conduct of business. The term of the appointment shall be one year.
2. Tellers. The President of the Senate shall appoint tellers for the purpose of counting ballots.

VI. Committees

A. Types of Committees

1. Standing Committees of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall appoint standing committees as needed.
2. Ad Hoc Committees. The President of the Senate may appoint various ad hoc committees to deal with specific issues or to assist the officers. These committees may include any combination of Senators or members of the general faculty. The Senate may also establish ad hoc committees and specify the method of selecting their members.

B. General Provisions

1. Standing Committees of the Senate

- a. General Duties. Standing committees of the Senate exist to assist the Faculty Senate in the performance of the duties assigned by the President of the Senate. A committee assists the Senate by:
 - i. Studying and reporting its recommendations to the Senate regarding any matter that may be submitted to it by the Senate or the General Faculty. A committee may also consider matters within its jurisdiction submitted to it by the Administration, the Student Government Association, or any faculty member or group of faculty members.
 - ii. Providing to the President of the Senate a list of all recommendations considered and the actions taken on all such recommendations. This shall be done promptly after each committee meeting.
 - iii. In addition to preparing recommendations for action by the full Senate, committees are responsible for gathering, assimilating, and disseminating information for use by the faculty and the Administration. Therefore, each committee should at its own discretion or at the request of the Senate conduct hearings and polls, and use other means of acquiring information, and should make reports in a timely manner.
- b. Membership Selection. Members of standing committees shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.
- c. Term of Office. Except where other terms of office are specified, faculty members shall serve two-year staggered terms, and may be reappointed for an additional term.
- d. Conduct of Business
 - i. Quorum. To conduct business a majority of the voting members of the committee shall be present.
 - ii. Alternates. A committee member may appoint an alternate. Alternates may attend committee meetings to observe or report, but may not vote or act in any other official capacity.

e. Records

- i. The Chair of each committee shall be responsible for minutes of committee meetings.
- ii. Copies of minutes of committee meetings shall be sent to the President of the Senate with a file copy for the secretary.
- iii. Outgoing committee chairs shall provide information to newly appointed chairs when requested to do so.

f. Reports

- i. After each meeting of the committee, the chair shall provide the Faculty Senate with a list of all recommendations considered and the action taken on each recommendation, as well as a list of current or pending issues.
- ii. Periodic reports may also be made to the Senate at a Senate meeting.

VII. Constitutional Amendment

- A. Proposed amendments may be initiated by majority vote of the Senate, or by written petition by twenty-five percent of the entire faculty.
- B. Upon receipt of a proposed amendment in written form, the secretary of the Senate shall distribute copies of it to the faculty. The President of the Senate shall wait at least seven (7) days, but not more than fourteen (14) days after the above distribution before convening the faculty to vote on the proposed amendment. The President of the Senate must call a meeting of the faculty during the above period to allow discussion of the proposed amendment. Voting shall be by e-mail or Division and shall be counted by a committee of three (3) appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate or Vice-President shall preside over these proceedings.
- C. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in any constitutional referendum.

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- b. Membership Selection. Members of standing committees shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.
- c. Term of Office. Except where other terms of office are specified, faculty members shall serve two-year staggered terms, and may be reappointed for an additional term.
- d. Conduct of Business
 - i. Quorum. To conduct business a majority of the voting members of the committee shall be present.
 - ii. Alternates. A committee member may appoint an alternate. Alternates may attend committee meetings to observe or report, but may not vote or act in any other official capacity.
- e. Records
 - i. The Chair of each committee shall be responsible for minutes of committee meetings.
 - ii. Copies of minutes of committee meetings shall be sent to the President of the Senate with a file copy for the secretary.
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- C. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in any constitutional referendum.

E. FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Huffstetler reported that the following action and informational items were previously vetted during the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting on March 16, 2026.

1. FY 2026-27 Lincoln County Operating Budget

The Lincoln County Manager’s Office requested the College submit its County Operating Budget request for FY2026-27 in January 2026.

The priorities associated with the FY 2026-27 budget request are as follows:

Sustaining operations while keeping pace with inflation.

1. Maintaining a clean and organized learning environment.
2. Addressing ongoing and emerging facility needs.
3. Funding state mandated salary and benefit increases.
4. Funding the facility personnel serving the Lincoln Campus with Lincoln County support.

The College’s FY 2026–27 operating budget request totals \$497,198, representing a 4.7% increase over the prior-year request and a 53.3% increase over the prior-year budget award.

A three-year comparison of our requested and awarded budget, along with the funding deficit is included in the action item for your review.

	Fiscal 2024	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
Operating Request	\$ 368,329	\$ 368,998	\$ 474,988
Operating Award	279,499	304,698	324,320
Funding Deficit	\$ (88,830)	\$ (64,300)	\$ (150,668)

The FY 2026-27 operating budget includes the following budget requests:

- Funding for a 4.0% anticipated salary increase along with the respective increase in benefits. The increase also includes an appropriate allocation of security salaries to the Lincoln Campus and removing those security costs from other funding sources (\$323, 612).
- Funding retirement and health insurance estimated increases (\$133,891)
- Funding for custodial supplies (\$15,150)

Overall Operating Budget

A table summarizing the 2026 requested budget, the 2026 adopted budget and the 2027 operating request is in the Overall Operating Budget section of the action item. This table also summarizes the budget implications of this request.

The fiscal 2027 request of \$497,198 is 4.7% higher than the fiscal 2026 request of \$474,988, indicating that our operating request has remained consistent with the prior year needs.

However, the fiscal 2027 request is 53.3% higher than fiscal 2026’s awarded budget of \$324,320.

The Final budget will be ultimately determined based on the level of funding provided by Lincoln County.

	Fiscal 2026 Requested Budget	Fiscal 2026 Adopted Budget	Fiscal 2027 Requested Budget	Change from Prior Year Requested	Change from Prior Year Adopted
Salaries and benefits	\$ 391,988	\$ 309,275	\$ 457,503	\$ 65,515	\$ 148,228
Facilities maintenance & operation	43,000	14,545	29,195	(13,805)	14,650
Facility support costs	40,000	500	10,500	(29,500)	10,000
Total Pursuant to NC 115D-32	\$ 474,988	\$ 324,320	\$ 497,198	\$ 22,210	\$ 172,878
			% Increase from prior year	4.7%	53.3%

For informational purposes, the letter sent to the Lincoln County manager was provided in the Board material.

The FY 2026–27 Operating Budget request reflects:

- An increase of \$22,210 (4.7%) from the FY 2025–26 request budget
- An increase of \$172,878 (53.3%) from the FY 2025–26 approved budget.

The Finance and Facilities Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the FY 2026-27 Lincoln County Operating Budget.

As the recommendation came from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion, **the motion carried.**

2. FY 2026-27 Lincoln County Capital Priorities

The Lincoln County Manager’s Office requested the College submit its County Capital Budget request for FY2026-27 in January 2026. As of FY 2025, capital maintenance and housekeeping costs for the Lincoln Campus are now the responsibility of Gaston College.

The priority associated with the FY 2026-27 capital budget request is to address emerging facility needs.

The College’s FY 2026-27 Lincoln County Capital Budget is \$251,500, which is a 60.2% increase from our prior year request and a 403.0% increase from our prior year award. A backlog of unaddressed needs has increased the capital budget request.

Below is a three-year comparison of the requested and awarded budget, along with the funding deficit:

	Fiscal 2024	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
Capital Request	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 474,988
Capital Award	30,000	50,000	50,000
Funding Deficit	\$ (20,000)	\$ -	\$ (424,988)

A detailed list of FY 2026–27 Capital Requests, organized by priority, was also included in the Board material. The Final budget will be ultimately determined based on the level of funding provided by Lincoln County.

**Lincoln County Budget Requests
FY 2026-27 Capital Requests by Priority**

	Item Requested	Building	Estimated Cost	Priority
1	Automatic door operator at the rear main entrance - ADA	LCM	\$15,250	1
2	Carpet Replacement in 2nd and 3rd Floor hallways	LCM	\$40,000	1
3	Flooring Repair/Replacement in classrooms	LCM	\$10,000	1
4	Flooring Repair/Replacement in Cosmetology	CSB	\$45,000	1
5	Flooring repair/replacement in several office areas	LCM	\$15,000	1
6	Repaint fourteen (14) rooms that need repairs and updates	LCM	\$14,000	1
7	Repaint hallways in both buildings	CSB	\$8,500	1
8	Replace flooring in six (6) rooms	LCM	\$15,500	1
9	Required ADA updates in several areas	CSB	\$15,000	1
10	Required ADA updates in several areas	LCM	\$25,000	1
11	Wall repair and painting in Cosmetology classrooms/labs	CSB	\$12,000	1
12	Wall repair and painting in several hallway and common area	LCM	\$8,000	1
	Priority One		\$223,250	
13	Electrical updates in classrooms	LCM	\$5,000	2
14	Equipment for Housekeeping	CSB	\$5,000	2
15	Fenced enclosure for golf cart	LCM	\$5,750	2
16	Golf Cart for Campus	LCM	\$10,000	2
17	Restroom Dispenser Replacment	CSB	\$2,500	2
	Priority Two		\$28,250	

Total Request \$251,500

The FY 2026-27 Capital Request reflects an increase of \$94,500 (or 60.2%) from the FY2025-26 requested budget and an increase of \$201,500 (or 403.0%) from the FY 2025-26 awarded budget.

The Finance and Facilities Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the FY 2026-27 Lincoln County Capital Budget.

Dr. Hauser reported that a meeting with the LC Commissioners and Mr. Mike Whiteman has been scheduled for Monday, April 20, 2026, to discuss the proposed budget.

As the recommendation came from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion, **the motion carried.**

3. FY 2026-27 Gaston County Operating Budget

The Gaston County Manager's Office requested the College submit its County Operating Budget request for FY2026-27 in January 2026.

The priorities associated with the FY 2026-27 Gaston County operating budget request are as follows:

1. Strategic Stewardship of Gaston County’s Investments of Financial and Facility Resources including:
 - a. Maintaining a safe, clean, and organized learning environment that Gaston County students deserve.
 - b. Sustaining core operations while navigating rising costs and inflationary pressures.
2. Workforce Capacity and Compensation Requirements including:
 - a. Meeting state-mandated compensation requirements, including salary increases and rising health and retirement benefit obligations.

The College’s FY 2026-27 County Operating Budget request is \$7,979,327 which is an increase of \$20,904 (0.26%) from the FY 2025–26 requested budget, and an increase of \$1,707,552 (27.23%) from the FY 2025–26 approved budget.

A three-year comparison of the requested and awarded budgets was included in the action item for review.

	Fiscal 2024	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
Operating Request	\$ 7,049,494	\$ 7,057,331	\$ 8,035,863
Operating Award	5,868,062	6,021,775	6,271,775
Funding Deficit	\$ (1,181,432)	\$ (1,035,556)	\$ (1,764,088)

State Salary Increases

The current budget prioritizes retaining existing employees and recruiting qualified personnel for critical vacancies, it does not propose adding new staff positions.

At present, the General Assembly has not announced salary adjustments for FY 2025-26, and no information is yet available regarding FY 2026-27 increases. For planning purposes, the College has included an estimated 4.0% salary increase and market-based adjustments for Housekeepers, the HVAC Technician, and the Maintenance Coordinator.

Ongoing unfunded salary and benefit increases continue to strain the College’s ability to attract and retain the skilled personnel required to maintain facilities, grounds, and infrastructure and require the College to rely on Student Fees to maintain the campus infrastructure.

The total compensation request for County-funded personnel is \$3,846,046, a 12.9% increase over the projected FY 2025–26 compensation cost of \$3,404,461.

Other Budget Requests

Inflation and rising utility rates continue to place pressure on our operating budget. We project an increase of approximately \$295,900 or 18% in utility costs for the upcoming year. In addition, discussions with our insurance broker indicate an expected 9% increase—approximately \$41,500 in general liability, property, cybersecurity, and other insurance premiums for FY 2026–27.

Overall Operating Budget

A table summarizing the 2026 requested budget, the 2026 adopted budget and the 2027 operating request is in the Overall Operating Budget section of the action item. This table also summarizes the budget implications of this request.

The Final budget will be ultimately determined based on the level of funding provided by Gaston County.

	<u>Fiscal 2026 Requested Budget</u>	<u>Fiscal 2026 Adopted Budget</u>	<u>Fiscal 2027 Requested Budget</u>	<u>Change from Prior Year Requested</u>	<u>Change from Prior Year Adopted</u>
Salaries and benefits	\$ 4,563,897	\$ 3,404,461	\$ 3,846,046	\$ (717,851)	\$ 441,585
Facilities maintenance	2,752,952	2,359,780	3,566,581	813,629	1,206,801
Facility support costs	641,574	507,534	566,700	(74,874)	59,166
Total Pursuant to NC 115D-32	\$ 7,958,423	\$ 6,271,775	\$ 7,979,327	\$ 20,904	\$ 1,707,552
			% Increase from prior year	0.26%	27.23%

For informational purposes, the request letter sent to the Gaston County Manager was provided in the Board material.

IMPLICATION FOR BUDGET

The FY 2026–27 budget request reflects:

- An increase of \$20,904 (0.26%) from the FY 2025–26 requested budget, and
 - An increase of \$1,707,552 (27.23%) from the FY 2025–26 approved budget.
- Deferred maintenance and capital requests alone represent an increase of \$4,322,654 (542.2%) from the FY 2025–26 awarded budget.

When major capital needs are included, the overall increase totals \$35,576,654 (97.8%) from the FY 2025–26 awarded budget.

Final priorities will be refined based on the level of funding provided by Gaston County.

The Finance and Facilities Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed FY 2026–27 Gaston County Operating Budget request totaling \$7,979,327.

As the recommendation came from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

4. FY 2026-27 Gaston County Capital Priorities

The Gaston County Manager’s Office requested the College submit its County Capital Budget request for FY 2026-27 in January 2026.

The priorities associated with the FY 2026-27 capital budget request are as follows:

1. Strategic Stewardship of Gaston County’s Investments of Financial and Facility Resources
 - a. Continued investment in campus infrastructure and student safety.

- b. Addressing critical and deferred maintenance needs to protect and extend the life of the County’s investment in capital assets.
2. Addressing Major Capital Projects
- a. Converting aging steam-based heating systems to high-efficiency hot water boilers to modernize campus infrastructure and reduce long-term operating costs.
 - b. Renovating, repairing or rebuilding the 35-year-old Fire Training Center.
 - c. Addressing door life cycle replacements and security equipment modernization needs.

The College’s FY 2026-27 Capital Budget request is \$5,119,873 for deferred maintenance projects with an additional \$31,245,000 identified major capital needs.

A three-year comparison of our requested and awarded budgets is below.

	Fiscal 2024	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
Capital Request	\$ 5,133,495	\$ 3,143,045	\$ 9,432,850
Capital Award	797,219	797,219	797,219
Funding Deficit	\$ (4,336,276)	\$ (2,345,826)	\$ (8,635,631)

Deferred Maintenance Projects

The College continues to face a significant accumulation of deferred maintenance needs, including:

- ADA compliance improvements
- Roof repairs and replacements
- Window replacements
- Exhaust system upgrades for instructional spaces
- HVAC system repairs
- Pavement maintenance for the law enforcement driver training track

The FY 2026–27 deferred maintenance request is substantially higher than prior-year allocations. New facility needs continue to emerge while previously unfunded needs accumulate, resulting in a growing backlog. Addressing these issues is essential to maintain safe, functional, and modern learning environments that Gaston County students deserve.

A detailed list of FY 2026–27 Deferred Maintenance and Capital Projects, organized by priority, was included on the final two pages of this action item.

The College expects that the County will continue to fund capital needs at a minimum of its established historical level of \$750,000. While the current request exceeds last year’s award, more robust capital investment is necessary due to the age of campus facilities.

- Original construction began in 1964, meaning 312,000+ sq. ft. is more than 50 years old.
- Another 35,000 sq. ft. is more than 40 years old.

In total, 54% of campus square footage is over 40 years old.

Major Capital Needs

The following major capital needs have been identified and included in our budget request.

1. Conversion of aging steam lines and boiler system upgrades - \$10,945,000
2. Gaston College Regional Emergency Services Training Structure ("Burn Building") - \$20,000,000
3. Security Infrastructure Modernization Phase 1 of 4 - \$300,000

The FY 2026–27 capital request includes:

- \$5,119,873 for deferred maintenance projects, and
- \$31,245,000 in major capital needs for planning purposes.

Deferred maintenance and capital requests alone represent an increase of \$4,322,654 (542.2%) from the FY 2025–26 awarded budget.

When major capital needs are included, the overall increase totals \$35,576,654 (97.8%) from the FY 2025–26 awarded budget.

Final priorities will be refined based on the level of funding provided by Gaston County.

Chair Caldwell highlighted the Bond Referendum Proposal included in the letter to Gaston County and noted that Dr. Hauser has been diligent in his requests. He also expressed appreciation to Trustee/Commissioner Keigher for his support of the College's request. Trustee Keigher added that if a bond referendum is placed on the ballot, its approval would ultimately rest with the voters.

The Finance & Facilities Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the FY 2026-27 Gaston County Capital Budget.

As the recommendation came from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion, **the motion carried.**

5. FY 2026 Educational Advancements

When budgets allow, Gaston College has a history of rewarding full-time employees who seek educational advancement by obtaining advanced degrees with a 4.0% salary increase. Prior approval is required to take part in this program. Six (6) full-time employees obtained advanced degrees – one (1) Associates of Applied Science, one (1) Bachelor of Science, one (1) Master of Arts, one (1) Master of Human Resource Development, and two (2) PhDs Doctoral of Education.

IMPLICATION FOR BUDGET

Estimated	Fund Sources			Estimated Total
	State	County	Institutional	
Educational Advancements (including benefits)	\$17,412	\$0	\$2,867	\$20,279

The Finance & Facilities Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a 4.0% salary increase for those full-time employees who completed advanced degrees, effective March 1, 2026.

6. FY 2026-2027 Student Fees

SBCCC 700.1 authorizes local boards of trustees to establish local Fees. Several Fee changes and additions are recommended for adoption effective July 1, 2026.

Curriculum Fees

Transcript Fee

- Increase the printed copy transcript fee from \$7.00 per transcript to \$10.00 per transcript. We would like to see a shift to students obtaining e-transcripts as opposed to printed transcripts, which are more costly. All students have access to obtain an e-transcript through the National Student Clearinghouse portal at a total cost of \$9.90 (which includes a \$3.90 processing fee).

Career Readiness Certificate Fee

- Increase the Career Readiness Certificate Fee from \$20 or \$25 per test to \$25 for all tests. The \$5 increase aligns with the increased cost of the test.

TEAS Testing Fee

- This Fee should be removed because students pay the Fee directly to the Assessment Technologies Institute.

Nurse Think Software Fee

- Change the Nurse Think Software Fee to be respective of the class taken. We currently charge all students a Nurse Think Software Fee of \$275.66 per semester. However, it is more appropriate to charge the Fee associated with the class as opposed to a flat Fee of \$275.66. The actual cost ranges from \$177.60 to \$279.33 depending on the class. The high end of the fees is above the prior year fee due to increased vendor prices.

Exam Soft (Clinical Judgement Exams) Fee

- Change the Exam Soft Software Fee to be respective of the class taken. We currently charge all students a Nurse Think Software Fee of \$66.25 per semester. However, it is more appropriate to charge the Fee associated with the class as opposed to a flat Fee of \$66.25. The actual cost ranges from \$93.46 to \$165.58 depending on the class. The high end of the fees is above the prior year fee due to increased vendor prices.

Economic Workforce Development/Continuing Education (EWD)

State Breathing School Equipment Fee

- Increase the State Breathing School Equipment Fee from \$350 to \$450 due to rising costs associated with the program.

Training Center Fee

- Increase the Training Center Fee from \$85 per person per day to \$100 per person per day due to rising costs associated with using the Training Center.

Firefighter Recruit Academy Fee

- Decrease the Firefighter Recruit Academy Fee from \$325 (for uniforms & books) to \$100. The decrease is because students will be required to purchase their own books.

Paramedic Lab Fee

- Increase the Paramedic Lab Fee from \$100 to \$200 due to rising costs associated with program.

EMT Testing Paramedic Fee

- Decrease the EMT Testing Paramedic Fee from \$40 to \$0. The Fee will now be part of the EMT Class Fee

EMT Basic Lab Fee

- Decrease the EMT Basic Lab Fee from \$32 to \$0. The Fee will now be part of the EMT Class Fee

EMT Class Fee

- Implement an EMT Class Fee from in the amount of \$450 which combines the EMT Testing Paramedic Fee (see above) and the EMT Basic Lab Fee (see above) along with several costs associated with the program. Having one fee eliminates the need for additional charges as the student complete the course.

Pharmacy Tech Lab Fee

- Eliminate the Pharmacy Tech Lab Fee as this program is no longer offered.

Manicurist Nail Tech Kit Fee

- Increase the Manicurist Nail Tech Kit Fee from \$100 to \$130 due to an increase in the book price.

Advanced Cardiac Life Support/ BLS DEF 7286 Membership Class Fee

- Increase the Advanced Cardiac Life Support/ BLS DEF 7286 Membership Class Fee from \$92 to \$97 due to increased prices associated with the class.

Pediatric Advanced Life Support/SEF 7283 Membership Class Fee

- Increase the Pediatric Advanced Life Support/SEF 7283 Membership Class Fee from \$85 to \$90 due to increased prices associated with the class.

BLS CPR Skills Checkoff/SEF 7288 Contact Class Fee

- Increase the BLS CPR Skills Checkoff/SEF 7288 Contact Class Fee from \$35 to \$39 due to increased prices associated with the class.

The increases in Fees are to offset increases in operating costs for the tests and programs involved. Certain Fees are being removed due to students paying the Fee out of Lab Fees or the class no longer being offered.

The Finance and Facilities Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees approve all the Fees as presented for FY 2026-27.

As the recommendation came from committee, no second was required. With no further discussion, **the motion carried.**

7. Kimbrell Fiber Innovation Center Yarn Spinning Room Connections – Change in Funding

Gaston College will be installing electrical and compressed air connections to three (3) large textile fiber spinning machines in the existing Kimbrell Fiber Innovation Center in Room 108. The Kimbrell Fiber Innovation Center is located on the Kimbrell Campus, and it is a single floor, 41,000 sq. ft. Textile Technology Facility that provides workforce development and textile industry support. Room 108 is a 4,016 sq. ft. area labeled the Reiter Room.

Due to savings associated with the Extrusion Room project, the Yarn Spinning Room project funding to SCIF funds from Proprietary Funding.

The estimated project cost is \$152,309 and will be funded by SCIF funds.

This was an informational item.

Mr. Stephen Sharp also shared an overall executive summary in the Board material with status of all project areas in the Kimbrell FIC building.

8. Supplemental State Budget Allocations

The College’s net increase in Supplemental State Budget Allocations through February 2026 was \$4,621,326. Customized Training received an additional \$140,670 allocation for fiscal 2026.

Customized Training – Reconciliation As of February 2026	Year to Date Total
LNS	\$ 28,138
Parkdale Mills	78,936
OWENS #4	15,624
Husky	33,614
Huber Technology Inc	67,191
Bosch Hand Tools	13,170
Blum #3	114,316
Total	\$ 350,989

Description	State Current
High-Cost Health Care Workforce Start-Up - Carryforward	\$ 818,170
Adult Basic Education - Carryforward	72,157
Apprenticeship Building America - Carryforward	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	427,502
Nursing Faculty Salary Adjustment	197,622
Modernization of Degree Program Competencies	20,000
Career Coach	148,163
Longevity	450,723
Enrollment Growth Funding	307,767
Apprenticeship Recall	(6,000)
Apprenticeship Recall	(44,307)
Apprenticeship Expansion - Recall	(97,108)
Total	\$4,621,326

This item was presented for informational purposes only.

9. Financial Reports

Summaries of expenditures for month-end February 2026, for State, Gaston, and Lincoln operating budgets and proprietary accounts in comparison to the previous year were provided.

State: State budget non-categorical spending was 62.5% spent at the end of February 2026. Results will fluctuate based on receipt of supplemental funding and the timing of one-time operational spending.

Categorical: Overall spending is at 62.8% with some categories higher. Due to the nature of certain categorical allotments, straight line percentage comparisons may be misleading, as not all are based on the fiscal year and funds are allocated to the College throughout the year for specific projects.

County Budgets: 65.8% of the Gaston County budget and 62.9% of the Lincoln County budget has been spent as of the end of February 2026. Finance continues to manage county spending using other funding sources as needed.

Proprietary:

An overview of all student fees for fiscal 2026.

Total Revenue from Student Fees: \$2,328,561

- **Total Expenses:** \$2,686,262
- **Net Loss:** (\$357,700) – The overall loss is due to the use of the Technology Fees Fund Balance for a required refresh and update of computers to Windows 11 compatibility.
- **Total Cash on Hand:** \$2.145 million
- **Total invested cash:** \$2.535 million, which includes both principal and interest earned.

An overview of all auxiliary activities for fiscal 2026.

- **Total Revenue:** \$2,913,724
- **Total Expenses:** \$3,120,486
- **Net Loss:** (\$206,762) – Several factors are contributing to the year-to date loss
 - Athletic expenses are typically reimbursed in early summer, which occurs after the Foundation’s fundraising events. Fire training – Financial activity is now being actively monitored following a meeting between the CFO and the Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development, during which potential solutions to address the deficit were identified.
 - 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.
 - 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).
 - A column has been added for WSGE non-state funded activities
- **Cash on Hand:** \$1.771 million
- **Invested Cash:** \$728,197, which includes both principal and interest earned.

An overview of all other activities for fiscal 2026.

- For presentation purposes, the Indirect Cost and Indirect Cost Reserve activity has been retitled as the Administrative Cost Pool and Administrative Cost Reserve to align with common industry terminology.
- **Total Administrative Cost and Lost Revenue income:** \$166,994
- **Total Administrative Cost and Lost Revenue expenses:** \$176,899
- **Net Administrative Cost and Lost Revenue Loss:** (\$9,906)
- **Cash on hand:** \$508,155
- **Invested cash:** \$2.108 million, which includes both principal and interest earned.
- **Health Science Education and Simulation Center**
- **Interest Revenue:** \$1,038,337
- **Cash used for construction activities:** \$1,029,940
- **Net cash gained:** \$8,398
- **Cash on Hand:** a deficit balance of \$336,270, which will be reimbursed from invested

cash.

- **Invested cash:** \$60.6 million, which includes both the principal and interest balance.

The financial reports are for information only. No action required.

10. Capital Reports

Ongoing Capital projects were provided in the material. The following projects updates were highlighted:

Comer Engineering Technology (CET) Steam Plant Renovation Project:

Pre-bid meeting was held on January 22, 2026. Bid opening was on February 20, 2026. Dallas Mechanical has been approved by the SCO (State Construction Office) for a Request to Award and the contract process is underway.

De-escalation Center:

A construction contract has been signed and construction should begin on April 7.

Health Science Education and Simulation Center:

Morris-Berg has begun the CD phase, scheduling meetings with Athletics, IT, Campus Police, Maintenance Department, etc. Hydrant flow test and other civil items are being addressed. Shelco is providing input in the CD process as well.

Fiber Innovation Center:

NCCCS approved the project for close out on January 16, 2026.

Fiber Innovation Center Extrusion Equipment Connections:

Dallas Electric has started the install process of the electrical components.

Fiber Innovation Center Process Chiller:

Team Mechanical has made exterior core penetrations for piping and installed piping overhead in the Extrusion and Reactor Rooms.

Fiber Innovation Center Reactor Room Connections:

The bid opening was on February 17, 2026. Carolinas Air Solutions was the low bidder and is providing documents needed to issue a contract.

Fiber Innovation Center Yarn Spinning Room Connections:

The bid opening was on February 17, 2026. H and C Contracting was the low bidder. Contract has been signed and a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2026. A 3-1 is in process to change funding for this project from Proprietary Funds to SCIF Funding.

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

In process of replacing a motor that has delayed completion of this project.

Minor Project – Regional Emergency Services Training Center (RESTC):

The college has contracted with Stuart Engineering for a structural engineering and analysis of the residential burn building structure. The cost is \$4,000. The funding for the analysis will come from County Capital Funds.

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

11. Grant and Foundation Updates

Gaston College Development Office and Foundation Report March 1, 2026

Fundraising Update:

From July 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026 the Foundation received \$631,620 through 2,903 gifts, with an average contribution of \$218.

Annual Funds/Grants	\$310,189
Athletic Funds	\$116,717
Capital Funds	\$35,000
Endowment Funds	\$32,450
WSGE Radio	\$137,140

New Foundation Funds FYTD 2026

- Rafalow Vet Tech Scholarship
- Clifton and Flora Walton Scholarship
- The Gregory F. Smith Scholarship for Workforce Development
- Metropolitan Woodworks Scholarship
- James A. Crawford Jr. Award for Excellence
- Alisa and Joseph Roy Endowed Scholarship
- Senator David W. Hoyle Scholarship
- Linda Summey Hoyle Scholarship

Grants and Sponsored Programs- FYTD 2026

Grants Awarded: \$5,172,362.00

- 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**
- NC AHEC- Clinical Faculty Support- \$15,000
- Duke Endowment/Atrium Health- \$900,000- Lincoln Health Academy
- National Science Foundation- \$750,000- SPARC 6*
- National Science Foundation- \$2,510,542- Textile Engines*

Grants Pending: \$29,055,000

- Economic Development Administration - \$20,000,000- Lincoln Campus Workforce Development*
- NC State and Local Cyber Security Grant Program- \$750,000- I.T. Infrastructure
- CaroMont Foundation \$30,000- Equipment for Respiratory and Nursing Programs**
- U.S. House of Representatives- \$6,000,000- Fire Training Upgrades
- NC Community College System- Electrical Systems Technology- \$250,000

- National Science Foundation- Scholarship for STEM- \$2,000,000
- Duke Energy Foundation- Fire Training Improvements \$25,000**

*Federal Funded Grants

** Grants to Gaston College Foundation

Event Updates

- ***Gaston College Rhino Classic***
 - *March 30, 2026 at Gaston Country Club*
 - 10 am Shotgun Start; \$750/foursome
 - Registration at <https://www.gaston.edu/rhino-classic/>
 - Goal: \$30,000
 - All proceeds will benefit the Gaston College Athletic Fund
 - Sponsors:
 - Presenting Sponsor- Shelco
 - Blue Rhino Sponsor- Morris-Berg, Gaston Travel and Tourism
 - Food Sponsor- Zaxbys
 - Registration as of March 6, 2026
 - Foursomes- 18 confirmed teams
 - Hole Signs- 15 sponsors
 - 7th Moon Boutique & Gifts
 - C Design
 - Aurora Engineering
 - Modern Printing Company
 - Peterson Painting & Construction Company
 - Piedmont Adult & Pediatric Medical Associates (2 signs)
 - Pinnix General Contractors
 - Productive Tool
 - Remembering Austin
 - South State Bank
 - Steel Specialty, Inc.
- ***A Night for Momentum Makers***
 - June 5, 2026 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
 - Dallas Campus, Myers Center Auditorium
 - A night for live music by The Embers, a silent auction, a fund-the-need drive, and plenty of fun!
 - All proceed to benefit Gaston College Athletics
 - Registration: gaston.edu/momentum-makers
 - Goal: \$150,000
 - Sponsorship Levels:
 - The MVP (\$15,000): Branding will be a "presenting" partner for the entire event, featured on all event marketing, and receive premier signage and recognition at the event.

- The Game Changer (\$10,000): A high-visibility partnership. Company logo will be featured on our website and in email marketing, and will also be on special signage and recognition opportunities at the event.
- The Playmaker (\$5,000): Fuel the fun! This level includes branding at the food and beverage stations, and in a pre and post event email.
- The Fan (\$2,500): Sponsor to be featured a reserved table and be recognized on the event website.

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

G. SGA

Mr. Scott gave the following SGA update:

Events hosted:

- Spring Welcome Events at all Lincoln and Dallas Campuses
- Crash Bash
- Valentine's Giveaway
- Rhino Meetup
- SGA Black History Month Events
- SGA Evening Pizza Grab-n-Go
- SGA Social Event

Upcoming events:

- Women's History Month Event
- St. Patrick's Day Event
- Spring Fest

N4CSGA Spring Division Meeting

On February 21, 2026, the SGA was able to represent Gaston College at the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association (N4CSGA) Spring Division Meeting hosted at Cleveland Community College. Our seven student leaders and one advisor were able to develop their own personal skills, giving them an outlet to learn more about their roles in SGA, and an opportunity to network with other student leaders and advisors in the Western NC area.

SGA Strategic Plan

The SGA has been hard at work completing goals for the year and has been operating more effectively since the integration of our new members from the Fall semester. Updated committees are:

SGA Public Information Committee:

The Public Information Committee of the Gaston College SGA has been working on new video promotional materials, as well as being more consistent and deliberate with the way we reach out to our students.

SGA Campus Activities Committee:

The Campus Activities Committee of the Gaston College SGA has doubled its membership from the previous semester, which reflects the number of events that have been planned and hosted. Since the addition of our new members, they have been able to effectively distribute the workload the SGA holds and create even more impactful events.

H. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- FY 2026-27 Board of Trustees Calendar – the Trustees were provided a proposed Board of Trustees FY2026-27 Calendar of meeting dates electronically before this meeting, and was included in the Board material. Since there were no recommended changes to the proposed calendar, Chair Caldwell asked the Trustees to add these dates to their calendars.
- Reminder to complete your Statement of Economic Interest –by April 15, 2026.
- The President’s Evaluation Survey will be distributed the first week of April. Trustees will have two weeks to complete the survey. The results will be discussed at the May Executive Session during the Board meeting.
- Trustees are invited to the 2026 Employee Appreciation and Recognition luncheon on Wednesday, April 8, 10:30 – 1 PM.
- The NCACCT Law-Legislative Conference in Raleigh is April 22-24. There are eight Trustees registered.
- Due to the size of our graduation classes, the College has elected to have two ceremonies this year. The 2026 Gaston College Graduation ceremonies are currently planned for May 14, at 9:30 AM and 6:30 PM. A rain date is scheduled for Friday, May 15.
- The next Board meeting is on May 18th. During the May meeting, which will be held at the Kimbrell Campus, the Nominating Committee will be announced. If you are interested in participating on the nominating committee or being considered for a position on the Executive Committee, please let me know before the May meeting.
- Upcoming Athletic dates were shared in the Board material along with the following:

Rhino Class Golf Tourney	March 30, 2026	10 AM	Gaston Country Club
Employee Appreciation Luncheon	April 8, 2026	10:30 AM	Myers Center
NCACCT Spring 2026 Law-Legislative Seminar	April 22-24, 2026	TBD	Raleigh - Embassy Suites
Committee Meetings	May 11, 2026	TBD	MCMA, Section B
GC Graduation	May 14, 2026	TBD	CaroMont Park
*Board of Trustees Meeting	May 18, 2026	TBD	Kimbrell Campus
Momentum Makers	June 5, 2026	7-10 p.m.	Myers Center

I. PRESIDENT’S REPORT/REMARKS

Dr. Hauser encouraged the Trustees to review the sixteen pages of his report and the divisional reports to stay informed about what a tremendous job the College’s faculty and staff do.

A few highlights mentioned were:

- \$10, 201,791 in federal, state, institutional, and outside aid has been disbursed to over 2,446 students for the 2025-2026 school year.

- The Financial Aid Office has received 5,492 unduplicated FAFSA applications for the 2025-26 school year. Compared to FY24-25, the applications are up 399.
- 247 Gaston College nursing students (all current) have scholarships.
- The Defense of Ward (DoW) consortium proposal has been submitted, and a decision should be made by mid-April. Mr. Jeff Pacuska from the DoW had a two-hour visit at the Kimbrell Campus on April 17, 2026.
- Richard Walker provided a brief Sports update on the successes of our Rhino Teams
- The Health and Wellness Building is in the final stages of design and development and will be submitted to the State office soon. Groundbreaking is anticipated as early as November 2026, with an expected opening in early 2028.

Trustee Carstarphen announced that Dr. Hauser will receive the Spirit of the Carolinas Award from the Gaston Business Association at its annual Salute to Business Gala in May. This prestigious honor recognizes a local leader for significant contributions to community development and exceptional leadership, with past recipients selecting each year's honoree.

Dr. Hauser thanked Trustee Carstarphen for the recognition and emphasized that the true credit belongs to the College's faculty and staff.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Caldwell encouraged the Trustees to continue serving as ambassadors for Gaston College, promoting its mission and impact beyond Gaston and Lincoln counties.

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. Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

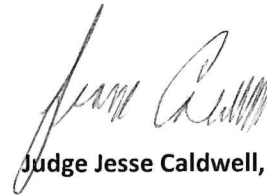
Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Shawnya Gore



Guyann Howe, Recording Secretary



Judge Jesse Caldwell, Chair

(College Seal)