

**MINUTES**  
**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**September 17, 2015 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Wesley Fricks, Chair  
Jim Rose, Vice Chair  
Breedon Blackwell  
Lisa Estep

Todd Johnson  
Sam Powell  
Lynn Raye  
Darrell Saunders

Scott Shook  
Clark Twiddy  
Jerry Vaughan

**System Office Staff and Others:**

George Fouts  
Chreatha Alston  
Jennifer Haygood  
Sondra Jarvis  
Bryan W. Jenkins

Maureen Little  
Q. Shante' Martin  
Mary Shuping

Dr. Donny Hunter (NCACCT)  
Ms. Lyn Austin (NCACCT)  
Ms. Linda Suggs (Gates  
Foundation)  
Harry Painter (Pope Center)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Fricks called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the AW Conference Room in the Caswell Building.

The chair read the required ethics statement. There were no conflicts.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Jenkins took the roll of the Legislative Affairs Committee members.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Fricks asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting as presented. Dr. Blackwell made the motion, it was seconded by Ms. Estep, and approved via voice vote.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**Legislative and Budget Update**

Mr. Fricks thanked Ms. Shuping for her hard work during the long session. He asked her to give the committee an update. She said the budget should be approved by Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. The legislature addressed all of the system's priorities and she reviewed the outcomes/successes.

- Salary – No across-the-board increase. There was a \$750 bonus as well as the \$10 million each year of the biennium built in for flexibility of salary increases for both faculty and staff.
- Summer or year-round funding has been approved for all curriculum courses.
- Career Coaches in the high schools have been funded. There will have to be match money at the local level.
- By October of 2018 the System Office is required to create a transition plan for the transfer to the Department of Information Technology.

Mr. Fricks said the committee members should reach out and thank the legislators and continue to build relationships. Keep Ms. Shuping in the loop so that she can track our connections. President Fouts said many legislators thanked us for everything the community colleges do, which signals that we are on the right path. Mr. Vaughan asked if there is anything we can do to show our appreciation during the legislative panel in October. Dr. Blackwell suggested a resolution thanking the legislators which could be presented in October.

Dr. Blackwell made the motion for a resolution to be written in support of the legislative efforts during the budget process in 2015, Mr. Raye second the motion, the committee approved.

Ms. Shuping said the bonds are still in discussion. Senate wants to cap at \$2 million and it is expected to come out next week. We hope to see more money from the Senate bond package than community colleges had in the House. Once released, it will probably go to conference. She will share the details about the conferees as soon as she knows so that the committee members can reach out to the legislators.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Shook said at the Trustees' Association meeting he shared the need to open up the lines of communication between the groups. One recommendation was doing email blasts to local College Board chairs on immediate need topics. Work should start on preparing the legislative agenda for the coming short session. There needs to be a game plan as well as an infrastructure that can support what is needed.

Dr. Blackwell suggested that we host a breakfast for legislators. Mr. Fricks said that he has been speaking with Ms. Shuping about having some sort of reception in the spring to welcome back legislators.

### **Customized Training Update:**

Maureen Little provided information on the top five projects handled by Customized Training over the last seven years. The committee discussed the possibility of representatives from these companies and legislators attending an event to show the impact on the state. It was also suggested that regional or statewide videos could be produced through Gaston College.

Mr. Rose suggested that the group consider ideas to bring back to the next meeting for further discussion.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no other business, the Committee adjourned at 4:05 p.m. following a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sondra Jarvis  
Recording Secretary