

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
August 18, 2016 – 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Jim Rose, Chair Todd Johnson
Breedon Blackwell, Vice Chair Clark Twiddy

Members Absent: Lisa Estep, Lynn Raye, and Jerry Vaughan

Other Board Members Present:

Janet Lowder Samuel Powell Scott Shook
Bill McBrayer Darrell Saunders Kirsten Stovall

System Office Staff and Others:

Jimmie Williamson Bryan W. Jenkins Eric Nesbitt (Senator
Jennifer Haygood Shanté Martin Barefoot's Office)
Chreatha Alston Mary Shuping Lyn Austin (NCACCT)
Patrick Fleming Representative Craig Horn Linda Suggs (Gates Fnd.)

Sondra Jarvis

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rose called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m. in the Dr. W. Dallas Herring State Board Room of the Caswell Building.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Jarvis took the roll of the Legislative Affairs Committee members.

ETHICS STATEMENT

Mr. Rose read the Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Statement and asked if there were any known conflicts. None were noted.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Rose asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the August 18, 2016 meeting as presented. Mr. Twiddy made the motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved via voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Rose asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting on July 14, 2016 as presented. Mr. Twiddy made the motion, seconded by Mr. McBrayer, and approved via voice vote.

FOR INFORMATION

Update on Legislative Agenda for 2017-19 Biennium

Ms. Shuping shared System Office staff has started conversations with the NCACCP at its summer meeting about the Legislative Agenda. Goals are:

- Budget Stability
- Enrollment and Completion
- Recruit, reward, and retain quality faculty and staff

Further conversations will be held at the September NCACCP meeting. The goal is to have something to be presented at the October planning meeting.

Legislative Guests

Mr. Johnson introduced Representative Craig Horn, House District 68 in Union County who serves as Chairman of Education Appropriations Committee for the House.

Representative Horn shared he is completing his third term, about to start his fourth term serving on the General Assembly. When elected, he never had the intention to get involved in education.

The community colleges and higher education in the state of North Carolina is internationally recognized. North Carolina has one of the strongest community college organizations in the nation. Representative Horn shared he attended the National Conference of State Legislatures conference where the report [No Time to Lose, How to Build a World-Class Education System State by State](#) was presented. He encouraged the members to get a copy of the report which represents several years of study, investigation, and visits to top performing education countries. The recommendations include career and technical education and post-secondary education. At a Chamber event in Durham on education the presenter said only one-third of jobs in North Carolina require a four year degree. This means two thirds will need to be educated with more than a high school education through the community colleges.

Representative Horn stated that there were mistakes made by the General Assembly in the most recent session. We need to learn from the past, but don't live in it. The loss of \$10 million from the community college budget has no answer. The staff cannot explain what happened. Going into the next session, there are provisions within the budget to allow adjustments this year. The committee was encouraged to ask "Where is my \$10 million" every time they see Representative Horn.

In the budgetary process there is a habit of asking for more than needed because the allocation will always be less than requested. This habit needs to be broken. There needs to be focus on what is important and what is needed. Identify top three priorities, then short a list of what else could be done. There needs to be a value proposition. As the legislative priorities are developed, remember it is not just about money. The Legislature creates an environment that allows organizations to do what they do best. The Legislature sets the laws that help get organizations reach their vision of where they want to be in five to ten years. The community

colleges need to invite legislators to the campuses. Invite legislators to classes or meetings to meet the people so they know the value and product that is a result of supporting the community colleges.

Representative Horn challenged the community college system to prepare students for life. Civil discourse and public engagement is life. Formal education was created to prepare people to be involved in their own government, to be engaged in government and figure out how to make things work even when there is a disagreement.

Representative Horn shared four lessons presented by a speaker from Joplin, MO:

- Vision matters
- Humor matters
- Celebrate every single day
- Love thy neighbor matters

Representative Horn opened the floor for questions.

President Williamson spoke about focusing on the needs and needing to identify the vision for the future.

Representative Horn said education is a scary topic for many politicians. There needs to be a common language for the broad legislature, which is why it is important for the colleges to form a relationship with local legislators. The community needs to be educated about the value of the colleges. The legislators need to see the decisions they make move the needle. President Williamson stated that the system will work to provide something tangible.

Mr. Johnson stated the frustration level comes when members visit legislators and are told how much the community colleges are loved, but then at the end of the day, it doesn't translate. The system is a victim of their own success of being able to do a great job with the "leftovers". Providing a product or end result may be a better approach moving forward.

Mrs. Austin asked about addressing the inequality of allocations in education. Representative Horn discussed how the increase in the number of students being served throughout the education system has increased, causing the per pupil expenditures (PPE) to go down. The PPE is not a good way to measure a successful outcome. The value proposition from the community colleges need to include the outcomes. Graduation rates cannot be the only measurement because there are other successes. President Williamson suggested that success could be measured by placement rates.

Chairman Shook stated that success is not graduating with a degree, large amounts of student loans, and without a job. The cost of higher education is a concern and community college is a way students can cut the cost. Our legislators and education partners need to look at how to reduce the cost of education and be more efficient. The system needs legislators who are community college advocates.

Representative Horn stated NC GAP is not lost and his goal is that it will not go away. Representative Horn stated it isn't just the cost of higher education that is a concern, the student is not ready for university. How the education system is approached needs to be repackaged from K-12 and universities. In North Carolina has a continuum concept where everything is siloed and that doesn't serve the student. Within K-12 there is discourse between all the different types of schools and there is no focus on the student.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN

There being no other business, Mr. Rose asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Powell motioned, seconded by Mr. McBrayer and the committee adjourned at 4:48 p.m. following a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Sondra Jarvis
Recording Secretary

DRAFT