

MINUTES
State Board of Community Colleges
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 16, 2023

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill McBrayer, Chair	Mark Merritt	Jerry Vaughan*
Julie Ryan, Vice Chair*	Sam Searcy*	
Tom Looney	Terry Van Duyn	

*Attended via zoom

Absent: Ray Trapp

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chaz Beasley	Jonathan Harris*	Sarah West
Lisa Estep	Bobby Irwin	Ann Whitford

*Attended via zoom

COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Jason Hurst, President Cleveland CC
Greg McLeod, President Edgecombe CC

*Attended via zoom

OTHERS

Kimberly Gold	Sondra Jarvis	James Willamor
Patrick Crane	Bruce Mack	Jeff Cox, President NCACCP
Alex Fagg	Tiffany Howell	Hannah McClellan, EdNC

*Attended via zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. McBrayer called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ETHICS STATEMENT

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

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APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

Mr. McBrayer asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting of January 19, 2023, Mr. Merritt moved, seconded by Mr. Irwin, approved via voice vote. Mr. McBrayer asked for a motion to approve the January 19, 2023, meeting minutes. The Mr. Merritt moved, seconded by Hon. Van Duyn, approved via voice vote.

FOR INFORMATION

Legislative Update

Mr. McBrayer shared that the Joint Education Appropriations Committee met prior to the committee meeting. Presidents and staff attended to listen to the presentation to the General Assembly by Fiscal Research staff which went well. It was interesting to hear the System's message being shared by Fiscal Research staff.

Mr. McBrayer provided highlights on the following activities:

- Continue to check emails for the legislative updates sent by Mr. Fagg.
- Long session at the General Assembly is moving quickly, quicker than in years past.
- The System Office hopes to have an additional legislative liaison in place soon. The position will be discussed in Personnel Committee.
- Legislative staff is presenting budget items for the Joint Legislative House and Senate Appropriations Committee.
- The Governor's budget has not come out yet, but it is expected sometime in March.
- Last week Tom Looney, Alex Fagg, and President Carver went to Washington DC to visit the Federal legislative delegation as part of a national conference. Mr. Fagg spoke about the relationship building on federal level with trips such as last week's trip to Washington DC. Had meetings several good meetings with the members from North Carolina. There was quite a bit of discussion about the importance of workforce. Worked to focus on creating that line of communication with the federal delegation.
- Working with Julie Woodson to finalize Community College Day on Wednesday, March 29th.

Mr. McBrayer asked President Hurst to share legislative updates from NCACCP meeting. President Hurst stated that the agenda is consistent with the agenda from last year. The System has stuck with the strategy set forth in the 2022-2025 agenda. President Hurst reviewed the information from the legislative agenda. Correspondence has gone to the colleges asking what they would do with the money if the requested allocation for student investment is approved. The bulk of the funding would go toward expanding existing programs or adding new programs that aren't currently at the local community colleges. North Carolina has been successful in recruiting business and industries to our state. North Carolina currently is the number one business state and has been in the top ten for the past ten years. Companies cannot continue to be recruited to North Carolina if the System cannot provide a skilled workforce and/or the training for the workforce. We are getting close to

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overpromising and under delivering. Across the state the demand is huge. President Hurst stated there is work being done related to the Legislative committee. President Hurst is working along with Mr. Fagg to coordinate efforts to assure that there is representation from NCACCP in legislative meetings where workforce is being discussed.

Mr. McBrayer asked about the casino that is being opened in western North Carolina and whether there have been communications between Gaston College and Cleveland Community College about providing services for that large amount of people. President Hurst said that the need is too large for any one college to address, so he and President Hauser are working together to provide a regional approach. There are several companies where there will need to be a regional approach.

Mr. Vaughan thanked President Hurst for his attendance and his work toward the legislative agenda. Mr. Vaughan stated he heard about salary increases and program expansion and shared concerns. Due to technical issues, it was agreed that the question would be discussed offline. President Hurst said that expansion money is for each individual college's use and gave examples of how the funding could be utilized. Mr. Fagg reminded the committee that colleges are funded in arrears and this funding would give the colleges the ability to have funding upfront to start programs. This would enable colleges to react quickly to needs of the community and industry for new programs.

Mr. McBrayer asked about interactions with legislators.

- Mr. McBrayer shared his updates and how the interactions led to further communications and relationships with the legislators.
- Ms. Whitford shared that she and Chairman Sullivan had a conversation with Rep Jon Hardister, he shared contact information, and stated he is looking forward to further conversations.
- Hon. Russell visited former colleagues at the General Assembly, and the community colleges are always a topic of conversation. Hon. Russell said that when the legislative agenda was passed, we did not predict the current inflation and wondered why that part of the agenda was not adjusted. Mr. McBrayer said that salaries were a topic during the Joint Education Appropriations Committee meeting, so we know it is on the mind of the legislators.
- Mr. Looney spoke about a bill being introduced where Computer Science will be a science and not an elective. This would be an incredible opportunity. Additionally, Mr. Looney observed the need for a look at the marketing of Apprenticeship to assure the system is looking at the future. Mr. Fagg did remind the committee the process the bill will need to go through to be passed.

Mr. Fagg reminded committee members to monitor email for information and that if possible to attend Community College Day. Mr. Fagg gave kudos to all the System Office team for the work to provide information he asks for quickly. Legislative relationships are the key to success for the System's legislative agenda. It makes a difference when members interact with the legislators.

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NEW BUSINESS

No new business was noted.

ADJOURN

Mr. McBrayer declared the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sondra Jarvis