

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
September 15, 2016 – 3:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Breeden Blackwell, Vice Chair Lynn Raye Jerry Vaughan
Lisa Estep Darrell Saunders
Todd Johnson

Members Absent: Jim Rose and Clark Twiddy

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill McBrayer Scott Shook Kirsten Stovall

SYSTEM OFFICE STAFF AND OTHERS:

Jimmie Williamson Bryan W. Jenkins Senator Ralph Hise
Jennifer Haygood Shanté Martin Lyn Austin (NCACCT)
Patrick Fleming Mary Shuping
Sondra Jarvis Linda Weiner

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Blackwell called the meeting to order at 3:39 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

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Blackwell asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the September 15, 2016 meeting as presented. Mr. Raye made the motion, seconded by Ms. Estep, and approved via voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr. Blackwell asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting on August 18, 2016 as presented. Mr. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Raye, and approved via voice vote.

FOR INFORMATION

Legislative Guest

Ms. Shuping introduced Senator Ralph Hise, representing District 47. Senator Hise thanked Mary for representing the Community Colleges very well in the General Assembly.

Senator Hise shared with the committee members how the system is viewed by the state and the general assembly.

- Representing the CC is a challenge. Everyone likes and loves the community college system. There are no enemies, but the challenge is that there are no champions either. If the \$10 million loss had happened in K-12 or university system, the legislators would have had to come back and the session would have been longer.
- When you want the legislators to make an investment, they don't want more of the same for more money, they want to see the new programs and what the new outcomes will be? How many more employable individuals will there be. The committee discussed if there needs to be a community college caucus?
- Legislators are confused whether it is one System Office or 58 individual campuses. The more that can be clarified will help. It is advantageous as a whole for individual campuses as a whole to go after non-recurring funding. This will put stronger pressure to give additional funds the following year. The legislature will not be tied down to give it to the same place the next year. Mr. Johnson asked if the "ask" from the college will be viewed as from the System Funds or the college's own funds. Senator Hise said it depends on where the request comes from and how it is presented.
- Mr. McBrayer asked if the legislature has the same confusion with the university system. Senator Hise said more information comes from the individual universities and their impact on the individual legislators.
- President Williamson said that he has been told by a number of legislators, the system is organized more like DPI (local controls) than we are the University System. Senator Hise said that DPI is not as much local control either. Much of their policy is written on the DPI level. Mr. Johnson said that on the funding level we are more like DPI. The advantage of being different was that Community Colleges were included in the Bond and K-12 was not.
- Mr. Raye said that when there is a lot of unemployment, our numbers go up and if the unemployment goes down (thanks to our help) our funding goes down because our enrollment goes down. How can that allow us to build new programs? Senator Hise said that the FTE Funding is unrealistic and this needs to be addressed. The System needs to determine what can be delivered with what funding exists, what can be offered with additional funding. Chairman Shook said the community colleges have more efficiencies across the budget compared to the university system, how does that get translated into a share of money to fund what is needed.
- The committee discussed the importance of finding a champion. Chairman Shook asked how the community college caucus could be formed. Senator Hise shared how this would be formed. He suggested having a joint (House and Senate) caucus. Mr. Johnson said that a caucus would help get the community college voice heard in the General Assembly. Our customers and clients are students and are typically a working individual who can't always come to Raleigh to speak to the legislator.
- Discussed the \$10 million and how we cannot allow that to be our increase in the next session.

NEW BUSINESS

Office of State Budget Management letter

Ms. Haygood shared the letter received from Office of State Budget and Management with the committee. Each agency is being asked to present the top strategic priorities, proposed investments, associate goals, success measures, and identified savings and efficiencies. Also agencies are being asked to submit reduction options that equate to two percent (2%) of the agency's 2016-17 budget.

Ms. Haygood asked for input from the committee on the reduction options. Members suggested that the state could save money by encouraging students to come to the community colleges and finish their associate's degree with the college rather than reducing the budget further. The committee discussed ways that could be recommended to incentivize students to complete their associate degree at the community college. Chairman Shook pointed out that there are services that will have to be cut.

Legislative Priorities

Ms. Shuping and Ms. Haygood presented the current version of the Legislative Priorities and how the priorities can be tied back to Align4NC Works. The Presidents will be reviewing the priorities and voting on them at their quarterly meeting in October. Staff hopes to bring the priorities to the State Board for approval in October. NCACCT will not meet again till Jan, however the information will be shared so that they can give feedback.

ADJOURN

There being no other business, Dr. Blackwell asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Raye motioned, seconded by Mr. McBrayer and the committee adjourned at 5:07 p.m. following a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Sondra Jarvis
Recording Secretary