

MINUTES
State Board of Community Colleges
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Monday, September 11, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Breeden Blackwell, Chair	Jim Rose	Clark Twiddy *
Todd Johnson	Bob Stephens	Ann Whitford
Lynn Raye *	Burr Sullivan	

Members Absent: Lisa Estep and Jerry Vaughan

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Roderick Gooden *	Frank Johnson	Ernest Pearson
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* Attended via phone

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Elizabeth Grovenstein	Chreatha Alston	Ken Boham (Martin CC)
Jennifer Haygood	Anne Bacon	Gary Green (Forsyth TCC)
Bryan Jenkins	Sondra Jarvis	David Johnson
Maureen Little	Katherine Tamer	(Johnston CC)
Shanté Martin		Dale McInnis
Jim Parker	Linda Suggs (Gates FND)	(Richmond CC)
Mary Shuping	Lynn Austin (NCACCT)	

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Blackwell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Dr. W. Dallas Herring State Board Room of the Caswell Building.

ROLL CALL

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

ETHICS STATEMENT

Mr. T. Johnson 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 meeting on September 11, 2017. Mr. Raye made a motion, seconded by Ms. Whitford, and the committee approved via voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr. Blackwell asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting on August 17, 2017 as presented. Mr. Stephens made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, and the committee approved via voice vote.

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FOR ACTION

Legislative Affairs Committee Charter (Attachment LEG 01)

Mr. Rose observed that the committee is unique since one of the purposes is to reach outside of the system. The following recommendations were made:

- Consider adding a third bullet containing advocacy.
- Add sentence stating that the committee could meet as determined by the Legislative Committee.
- Mr. T. Johnson said Mr. Rose's recommendation should be the first bullet.

Mr. Rose provided draft language to be added under section V. Responsibilities.

Mr. Stephens made a motion to adopt the Legislative Affairs Committee Charter with recommended changes. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion, and the Committee approved via voice vote.

FOR INFORMATION

Review of Internal Development of Legislative Goals: The Unified CC Agenda

Ms. Shuping shared information about how the activity of the Legislative Affairs Committee can help build the relationships and advocating during the Legislative session.

A unified agenda is very important. The process before the agenda is presented is the shared responsibility of the NC Association of Community College Presidents (NCACCP) and the State Board. Having a unified agenda helps avoid conflicts, enables communication of priorities, and provides a singular message to the General Assembly.

The Presidents' Association has already had some early robust discussions about the 2018 legislative agenda. After the NCACCP has adopted the legislative goals, the State Board will review and act on the budget priorities through Finance Committee and the other priorities through the Legislative Affairs Committee. There will be continued discussion throughout the legislative session. Members are welcome to have feedback throughout the process. During the legislative session, staff will identify bills that impact the Community College System.

President McInnis stated that the NCACCP Finance and Legislative Committees have started to meet and discuss the legislative agenda. The goal is to have a list of priorities to the State Board by January 2018 for approval.

Review of Process in the General Assembly: Advocating for CC Priorities

President Johnson stated one of the concerns for Presidents are the management flexibility cuts, and the continued need to reduce or eliminate those cuts. President Boham said it is important to start early and stay on message.

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Ms. Haygood gave a brief overview of management flexibility cuts. During the recession, agencies were asked to make budget cuts but community colleges were given the flexibility to determine where to make the budget cuts.

President Green said that the legislative goals processes that the NCACCP and State Board have in place help prevent multiple requests from various places. President Johnson said that unfortunately this past year that process was compromised. Ms. Haygood shared with committee members one of the reasons for the process is to make sure the request is a valid request. The Committee discussed concerns with colleges choosing to make requests outside of the agreed upon legislative agenda. Staff said that these requests can put them in a difficult position with the Legislator.

President Green said for the Strategic Plan to be meaningful, the Priorities need to be aligned with that plan. President Boham stressed that the priorities should not be wish lists, but requests that show through the strategic plan how they will be used. Ms. Haygood outlined how the Strategic Plan is a framework for legislative requests.

The priorities need to be clear and concise and defensible. There needs to be a measurable return on investment. Once the legislative agenda is approved it is shared with stakeholders. Working with various associations and getting feedback has been important. Legislators are pleased that the System can provide a single sheet priority request. If they have questions about anything on that one sheet, they will request more information.

The budget priorities are also submitted to the Office of State Budget Management, and the Governor determines what priorities will be included in the Governor's Budget.

Ms. Shuping reviewed the legislative process.

Looking Forward: 2017 Short Session & Beyond

Ms. Grovenstein reviewed what the priorities have been in the past and the budget process starting with FY 14-15. Tuition has raised 90% since the recession in FY 2008-09, and Dr. McInnis said that unfortunately that is one of the reasons the enrollment has gone down.

Ms. Whitford asked if there is a base salary for faculty and staff. Ms. Grovenstein said there is a minimum and maximum from state funds. It is up to the college how the salary is determined for each individual within those parameters. President Green said that it works well because it allows them to adjust to salary demands for the area.

The Strategic Plan is going to be very important in the developing the legislative priorities. Legislators have emphasized the need for a Strategic Plan. Legislators want to know how budget and policy tie back to those strategic plans.

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Ms. Haygood spoke about the Strategic Plan and the process that the staff has followed.

Ms. Shuping provided a map of SBCC Members and legislators in the Department of Commerce Prosperity Zones. She asked Board members to reach out and start to form relationships with legislators, especially those in who are on Education Appropriations Subcommittees. Ms. Whitford emphasized that it is important for members to know the legislators and the Presidents in their area.

Action Items:

- Identify SBCC Members' established relationships with legislators.
- Meeting schedule of legislature, oversight and other committees while in Raleigh.
- Invite SBCC members to participate in community college legislative breakfasts, meetings.
- Proactively talk with legislators about budget request, strategic plan. Also ask for feedback and concerns and how we can help them help us.
- Regional meetings with college presidents, trustees, SBCC Members and legislators

Chairman Blackwell thanked the presidents who attended for sharing their prospective. Thank you to the staff for putting this meeting together.

ADJOURN

There being no other business, Dr. Blackwell asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. T. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Stephens, and the committee adjourned at 1:12 p.m. following a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Sondra Jarvis