



State Board of Community Colleges

Caswell Building, 200 West Jones Street

Raleigh, North Carolina

December 17, 2021

9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Following proper public notification, Chairman Burr Sullivan called the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) Meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Dr. W. Dallas Herring State Board Room of the Caswell Building. Chairman Sullivan welcomed the Board.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mr. Bobby Irwin; following, Chairman Sullivan asked for a moment of reflection.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Artis called the roll, and the following members were present:

Dr. Lee Barnes

Dr. Shirley Carraway*

Ms. Lisa Estep

Mr. Jonathan Harris (Lt. Gov.

Mark Robinson designee)

Mr. William Holder

Mr. Bobby Irwin

Mr. Tom Looney

Mr. Bill McBrayer

Mr. Mark Merritt

Mr. Hari Nath

Mr. Andy Penry

The Hon. Ray Russell

Ms. Julie Ryan (Comm. Josh

Dobson designee)

The Hon. Sam Searcy*

Mr. Burr Sullivan

Mr. Ray Trapp

The Hon. Terry Van Duyn

Mr. Nathan Vasquez*

Mr. Jerry Vaughan

Ms. Sarah West

Ms. Ann Whitford

* Attended via telephone

Absent: Treasurer Dale Folwell,

Following roll call, Chairman Sullivan welcomed and introduced two new Board members, Sen. Terry Van Duyn and Rep. Ray Russell, he asked each member to share a few words and introduce themselves to the Board. Sen. Terry Van Duyn and Rep. Ray Russell each greeted the Board and took a few moments to share their personal and professional backgrounds with the Board.

ETHICS AWARENESS AND IDENTIFICATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Ms. Artis reminded members of the Board of the ethics requirements and requested members identify any conflicts or potential conflicts of interest.

Ms. Artis reviewed the requirements to record actual or potential conflicts of interest as noted in NC General Statute 138(a)(24)(e) . Ms. Artis read and noted the following actual or potential conflicts of interest, identified by the State Ethics Commission, for the following members:

Ms. Julie Ryan

The State Ethics Commission did not find an actual conflict of interest or the likelihood for a conflict of interest. Ms. Ryan will fill the role of a designee on the Board, she serves as a designee for Commissioner Josh Dobson.

Mr. Jonathan Harris

The State Ethics Commission did not find an actual conflict of interest or the likelihood for a conflict of interest. Mr. Harris will fill the role of a designee on the Board, he serves as a designee for Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson.

Ms. Terry Van Duyn

The State Ethics Commission did not find an actual conflict of interest for Ms. Terry Van Duyn but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity. Ms. Van Duyn would fill the role of the representative of region one. She and her spouse own a financial interest in Apple Inc. and GPM Corp, a medical software development and sales company. Therefore, Ms. Van Duyn has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of her public duties should issues involving any entity in which she or her spouse own a financial interest come before the Board for official action.

Dr. Carl Ray Russell

The State Ethics Commission did not find an actual conflict of interest for Dr. Carl Ray Russell but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity. Dr. Russell would fill the role of a representative of Region 2. He is the CEO and founder of the weather data, forecasting, advertising, and webstore, RaysWeather.Com, which could seek to provide or market its services to the community colleges. Therefore, Dr. Russell has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving his business, RaysWeather.Com come before the Board for official action.

No other actual or potential conflicts of interest were noted by the Board.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Holder made a motion to approve the November 19, 2021 minutes. Mr. Nath seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, AND CONSENT AGENDA

There were no changes to the Consent Agenda as presented. The following changes were requested to the agenda.

- PER – Mr. McBrayer stated the committee has no changes.
- PLAN – Ms. Whitford stated the committee has no changes.
- FC – Dr. Barnes stated the committee has no changes.
- SBPG – Mr. Vaughan stated the committee has no changes.
- LEG – Mr. McBrayer stated the committee has no changes.

Ms. Whitford made a motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Trapp seconded the motion; approved by voice vote. Mr. Trapp made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Mr. Holder seconded the motion; approved by voice vote.

Items approved on the Consent Agenda were as follows:

FINANCE COMMITTEE, Dr. Lee Barnes, Chair

- Contract Amendment to Support Rural College Broadband Access (Attachment FC 02)
- Allocation for Food and Nutrition Services Employment and Training Program Grant (Attachment FC 03)
- Construction and Property – December 2021 (Attachment FC 06)

REPORTS:

Dr. Mark Poarch, President of North Carolina Association of Community College Presidents

Dr. Poarch greeted the Board and President Stith.

President Poarch discussed the follow:

- Dr. Poarch stated the NCACCP met this week in Raleigh, with the agenda item to approval the three(3) year legislative budget request.
 - Dr. Poarch acknowledged and thanked Mrs. Elizabeth Grovenstein, Mr. Alex Fagg, President Thomas Stith, and the System Office team members for the assistance and support in helping the presidents construct the three (3) year legislative budget request. Dr. Poarch also thanked Dr. Dale McInnis, Dr. Rusty Hunt, and the NCACCP Legislative and Finance Committee for their work on the three (3) year plan.
 - Dr. Poarch stated the plan is bold and attainable and focuses on two things: one increasing the value of their students and two increasing the value of their employees.
 - Dr. Poarch stated back in October 2021, the presidents approved the conceptual framework of the plan while waiting for the Governor’s approval of the legislative budget. Dr. Poarch shared, since that time the budget has been approved and Mrs. Grovenstein has updated

the plan's estimated numbers, which will change again based on final enrollment numbers and other factors. Dr. Poarch stated the plan now has a good estimated of the budgeted request.

- Dr. Poarch stated NCACCP unanimously approved the 2022-2025 Legislative Budget Agenda on Wednesday, December 15th. He stated many comments have been received about how strategic and well thought out the three (3) year plan is. He stated NCACCP will now begin rolling out the plan to other stakeholders, including NCACCT for their endorsement, following this endorsement, to the State Board for approval in January 2022.
- Dr. Poarch stated on behalf of NCACCP, he congratulated Dr. Gold for her recent promotion to the System Office's Chief of Staff position.

Mr. Looney asked a follow up question to Dr. Poarch's report, he asked are there any plans to bring businesses, Chamber of Commerce, NC EDP, and other organizations together to discuss with them in support of driving the message forward to the General Assembly. Dr. Poarch stated this in fact was a topic of discussion and there are intentions to include the State Board in developing plans to bring this together.

Ms. Julie Woodson, President of North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees

Ms. Woodson greeted Chairman Sullivan, State Board, and President Stith.

- Ms. Woodson stated the executives of the Trustees Association will meet in early January 2022, to discuss the three (3) year legislative plan. She stated they have asked Dr. Poarch to be a part of that discussion.
- Ms. Woodson stated she also agrees with Mr. Looney's comments on engagement with businesses to be a part of the multi-year legislative plan.
- She thanked the Board for allowing the trustees to be a part of the Regional Listening Session meetings as the Board develops plans and strategies around the feedback received from those meetings. She shared her experience and gratefulness for attending a recent Listening Session. Ms. Woodson stated that a long-time trustee commented that the trustees were not invited in the past to be a part of the Listening Sessions and that the trustees appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the development of a strategic plan for the Community College System.

Mr. Nathan Vasquez, President of North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association

- Mr. Vasquez shared his appreciation for the opportunity to serve and acknowledged he sees how hard the Board works and the value in how the Board works to be more proactive than reactive. He shared he is aware of how the Board is working to tackle issues so there can be a strategic offensive stance versus defensive.
- Mr. Vasquez shared N4CSGA accepted their new vice-president, Mr. Joseph Witmer. He stated the vice-president is eager to join and looks forward to attending a future Board meeting with Mr. Vasquez.

- On Friday, January 14th, Mr. Vasquez stated, the N4CSGA will hold their first in-person meeting in the last two years. During the meeting N4CSGA will identify the top three (3) barriers student believe N4CSGA should focus on. He shared plans on how the Association plans to survey and gather feedback on this topic.
- Mr. Vasquez shared the division meetings dates and locations have changed; he will follow up with an invitation to the Board once those dates are confirmed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, Mr. Bill McBrayer, Chair **For Action**

Position Conversion SPA to EPA (Attachment PER 01)

TSDL Cybersecurity EPA Positions (Attachment PER 02)

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, Mr. McBrayer recommended and moved for approval as a combined vote for Attachment PER 01 and Attachment PER 02. The items were approved by voice vote

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, Mr. McBrayer recommended and moved approval of the following actions:

- New hire of Mr. Deante Tyler to the position of AVP, Chief Technology Officer, position #60088010, effective January 10, 2022.
- Conversion of SPA to EPA for Stephen Reeves in the position of AVP, Chief Information Security Officer, position #60088042, effective January 1, 2022.
- Promotion for Samantha Csarnogusky in the position of Information Technology Security and Compliance Manager II #65034089, effective January 1, 2022.
- Promotion for Agnetta Kamugisha in the position of Director – IT Operations, position #60088077, effective January 1, 2022.
- New hire of Dr. Levy Brown to the position of Senior Vice President/Chief Academic Officer, effective January 18, 2022.
- Approval of Dr. Patti Pfeiffer as President of Wayne Community College, effective January 1, 2022.

Following a motion by Mr. McBrayer, the items above were approved via voice vote.

Ms. Estep request an updated copy of the System Office organization chart.

The following items were presented as for information:

- System Office Vacancy Report – December 2021 (Attachment PER 01)
- College Presidential Status Report – December 2021 (Attachment PER 02)

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE, Ms. Ann Whitford, Chair

Ms. Whitford asked the members of the Board to view the handout of Regional Listen Sessions scheduled, the draft agenda for the last held meeting, and a summary compiled from the last Regional Listening Session. Ms. Whitford shared highlights from the last session held, she noted all the information received will be useful in constructing the next strategic plan.

For Information

Enrollment Insights (Attachment PLAN 01)

Strategic Enrollment Management Update (Attachment PLAN 02)

Ms. Whitford reviewed Thursday's Committee meeting, stating Attachment PLAN 01 was presented to the Committee by Mr. Bill Schneider in which he reviewed the demographic trends of enrollment. Ms. Whitford shared Attachment Plan 02 was also presented during the Committee meeting by Dr. Monty Hickman, which noted tactics and strategies to increase enrolment.

Dr. Crane followed with additional information shared during the Committee meeting. He stated FTE shifts are aligned with population shifts; the counties with declining population are also in correlation with decline in FTE. Dr. Crane shared, there is further study being done to determine additional factors of decreased enrollment. He noted counties with increased enrollment are projected to continue increasing and the counties with decreased enrollment are projected to continue decreasing, he stated this could potentially be an ongoing issue in the next decade(s), continuing by stating his team is reviewing what way the community colleges can play a role in this trend, potentially serving as hubs for economic development within the communities. Dr. Crane also noted additional trends identified, he stated when overall education attainment is low within a county there is a higher population of students enrolled in community colleges, and on the contrary, in areas with high education attainment (ex: Orange County, Wake County) lower percentages of students are enrolling in community colleges. Dr. Crane shared that he believes one of the take-aways from this study is that in more rural counties, community colleges are the primary source for higher education. Dr. Crane shared in terms of potential enrollment growth, only six (6) percent of 25–39-year-olds are enrolled in community college, these numbers indicate there is opportunity for growth, especially in terms of reskilling, and retraining, life-long learning. He shared additional highlights from the presentations from the Committee meeting regarding enrollment.

Dr. Russell asked if there are thoughts regarding broadband. Dr. Crane responded with comments on current plans and plans to continue this development and evaluate ongoing needs.

Mr. Vaughan asked for information about The University System consolidation, he stated he would like to hear from presidents in the Listening Sessions regarding this. Dr. Crane shared a few comments he has heard during the sessions and that he will continue to hear from presidents about this concern.

Ms. Whitford stated she is looking forward to discussions with presidents and trustees about the legislative budget plan and how the strategic planning will collaborate.

Mr. Holder stated the community colleges are essential within rural areas and advised to move forward cautiously with this in mind regarding consolidation and strategic planning.

Mr. Irwin shared that community colleges are important to the service the area of each community and to encourage that we remember the impacts on students. He stated he supports the structure that is currently in place and stated local support is the life-line support for community colleges.

Chairman Sullivan encouraged the members of the Board to attend the Listening Sessions as they tour near their regional areas, he stated it is an opportunity to hear from the presidents and colleges needs regarding strategic planning.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, Dr. Lee Barnes, Chair

For Action

NC Career Coach Program Data Collection (Attachment FC 01)

Dr. Barnes stated the attachment recommends funds to three (3) colleges participating in the NC Career Coach Program who have requested funding for a data requesting tool to enable better reporting to meet the legislative requirement.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Dr. Barnes recommended and moved for approval of Attachment PROG 01. The item was approved by voice vote.

Allocation for State Fiscal Recovery Fund Bonuses (Attachment FC 04)

Dr. Barnes stated this item delegates authority to the System President to approve the allocations for Federal-State fiscal recovery funds bonuses approved by the State Fiscal Budget. He stated due to the timing the System Office does not currently have the necessary data from colleges, he stated the colleges are making the payments during the December 2021 or January 2022 payroll.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Dr. Barnes recommended and moved for approval of Attachment PROG 04. The item was approved by voice vote.

Authorization of Legislative Salary Increase (Attachment FC 05)

Dr. Barnes stated Attachment FC 05 is an authorization of legislative salary increase, he stated this item authorizes the colleges to provide the two and a half (2.5) percent salary increase effective January 2022 and directs that colleges should implement the increase utilizing the guidance to be issued by the System Office.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Dr. Barnes recommended and moved for approval of Attachment PROG 05. The item was approved by voice vote.

The following items were approved as Consent Agenda items:

- Contract Amendment to Support Rural College Broadband Access (Attachment FC 02) [CA]

- Allocation for Food and Nutrition Services Employment and Training Program Grant (Attachment FC 03) [CA]
- Construction and Property – December 2021 (Attachment FC 06) [CA]

For Information

Dr. Barnes briefly reviewed the following for information items.

- Estimated Receipts – November 2021 (Attachment FC 07)
- NC Connect Bond Report – November 30, 2021 (Attachment FC 08)

Mr. Trapp requested information regarding minority supplier numbers in reference to the distribution of funds via the NC Connect Bond. Ms. Grovenstein stated the colleges are required to report their data to the NC Historically Underutilized Business Office, she stated they will request this data to bring to the Board.

STATE BOARD POLICY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE, Mr. Jerry Vaughan, Chair

For Action

Apprenticeship NC Council Appointments Calendar Year 2022 (Attachment SBPG 01)

Mr. Vaughan stated during the Committee meeting Dr. Bruce Mack reviewed the Council appointments.

On behalf of the State Board Policy and Governance Committee, Mr. Vaughan recommended and moved for approval of Attachment SBPG 01. The item was approved by voice vote.

LEGISLATIVE Affairs COMMITTEE, Mr. Bill McBrayer, Chair

For Information

Legislative and FY2021-23 Budget Update

Mr. McBrayer stated the Legislature and Governor signed and passed the FY2021-23 Budget, in which the Community Colleges received all that was asked and more. He stated this is the best budget for the College System seen in the past years. He acknowledged Mrs. Elizabeth Grovenstein and her team, Mr. Alex Fagg, President Thomas Stith, and all who have worked on the budget request.

FY2022-25 Legislative Agenda Update

Mr. McBrayer stated the presidents passed the Legislative Three (3) Year Plan and more information will come to the Board in January 2022 on the Plan. Mr. McBrayer stated in the Plan the Committee, along with presidents and trustees, will focus on collaboration of a consistent message and request to share with the Legislature.

Sen. Van Duyn stated the tax changes made to the budget over the last several years has caused a reduction in State Funding by thirty (30) percent. She stated the decrease is a considerable amount funding for needed programs, including the Community Colleges.

Chairman Sullivan stated the Board will have a full discussion in January 2022 on the Three (3) Year Legislative Plan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Stith delivered the Longleaf Pine Award and Certificate of Retirement to Ms. Maureen Little, former Senior Vice-President of Economic Development. President Stith shared gratitude and acknowledgement for her 33-years of service, he shared highlights of her contribution. President Stith shared his appreciation for her dedication and thanked her for her commitment. Mr. Little shared a few comments in her acceptance of certificate and award.

President Stith presented the following:

- Discussed the Three (3)-Year Legislative Plan , highlighting the following:
 - Creating student success, stating the funding will reflect the value of the students
 - Providing highly skilled, highly trained workforce
 - Meeting demands of new and expanding employers and technologies
 - Providing attractive training and education opportunities for companies deciding to expand or locate to North Carolina
 - Support for world-class talent to continue fueling North Carolina's job engine and positioning as a global partner with businesses and industries
- Reviewed the approved Fiscal Year Budget with details regarding allocation throughout the College System
- Discussed Presidents 2022 Goals
 - Priority One (1) – Increased Enrollment
 - Priority Two (2) – Enhance/expand business and community college partnerships
 - Priority Three (3) – Diversify financial support for the College System
 - Priority Four (4) – Legislative Agenda
- Provided updates regarding his visits to each of the fifty-eight (58) community colleges
 - President Stith shared he has completed within one (1)-year a tour of each of the community colleges in which he assessed their individual strengths, needs, and capacity.
 - Provided highlights from his tour at Bladen, Brunswick, Cape Fear, Carteret, Central Piedmont, Costal Carolina, Craven, Robeson, Sandhills, Southeaster, and Western Piedmont Community Colleges.
- President Stith shared newsworthy highlights and success stories from current students in the Community College System
- Congratulated Catawba Valley Community College, as they were selected to provide the 2021 Christmas tree to the White House
- Provided highlights from recent strategic discussions with North Carolina's Association of Regional Councils of Government and Red Hat Software

Mr. Holder stated he appreciates and applauds President Stith leadership and success of completing the tours. He shared comments regard the success highlights of students, he stated we must not forget the challenges students are facing. He also noted in one of the success stories in which a student

shared a local community member introduced her to the community college in her area; Mr. Holder stated it is important to reach outside of the norm and meet potential students where they are to get them enrolled, he mentioned marketing and following up with potential students as tactics he would like to see address in the year 2022.

Mr. Looney stated the EDPNC received ten (10) million dollars for marketing, he suggested making efforts to partner with the organization to market the Community College System.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Vaughan stated there has been discussion regarding reports on adult education initiatives within the University System. He encouraged continued partnership and articulation agreements, and suggested strategy for responding to limitation and boundaries with regards to each system. Mr. Irwin encouraged protecting the partnership between each system and articulation agreements.

Chairman Sullivan stated an Issues Luncheon on rural colleges will take place next month, January, and during the following month, February, an Issues Luncheon of economic development will take place.

Mr. McBrayer shared updates on former Chairman Blackwell, he encouraged the Board members to reach out to him.

Mr. McBrayer stated he would like feedback on the idea of inviting president from the fifty-eight (58) colleges to have five (5) to ten (10) minutes to introduce themselves and shared the top things their college is known for. He suggested this will be a great learning experience to learn about each college and to meet each president. Mr. Holder stated he also would enjoy the idea and stated he would like the Board to travel to a college for a Board meeting throughout the year. Chairman Sullivan stated the Board will travel to a college for the three (3)-day strategic planning meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next State Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2022 and Friday, January 21, 2022 in the Dr. W. Dallas Herring State Board Room located in the Caswell Building in Raleigh, NC. More information regarding this meeting will be communicated.

EXPIRING TERMS AND VACANCIES

There are currently zero (0) terms expiring and zero (0) vacancy for the membership of the State Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Mr. Thomas Stith III, System President

Mr. Burr Sullivan, Chair