



State Board of Community Colleges

Wake Technical Community College, 9101 Fayetteville Rd,
Raleigh, NC 27603
September 17, 2021
9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Following proper public notification, Vice Chairman Bill McBrayer called the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) Meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in Second Floor Conference Room of Building L at Wake Technical Community College’s Southern Wake Campus.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mr. Bobby Irwin and Mr. McBrayer asked for a moment of reflection.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Bryan Jenkins called the roll, and the following members were present:

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| Dr. Lee Barnes | Mr. Bobby Irwin | The Hon. Sam Searcy |
| Dr. Shirley Carraway | Mr. Tom Looney | Mr. Burr Sullivan |
| Ms. Lisa Estep | Mr. Bill McBrayer | Mr. Ray Trapp* |
| Treasurer Dale Folwell* | Mr. Mark Merritt | Mr. Jerry Vaughan |
| Ms. Jena Gallagher | Mr. Hari Nath | Ms. Sarah West |
| Mr. Jonathan Harris (Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson designee) * | Mr. Andy Penry* | Ms. Ann Whitford |
| Mr. William Holder | Ms. Julie Ryan (Comm. Josh Dobson designee) | |

* Attended via telephone

ETHICS AWARENESS AND IDENTIFICATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Mr. Jenkins 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)(15) . Ms. Artis read and noted the following actual or potential conflicts of interest, identified by the State Ethics Commission, for the following members:

Dr. Marvin Lee Barnes, Jr.

The State Ethics Commission did not find an actual conflict of interest for Dr. Marvin Lee Barnes Jr., but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity. Dr. Barnes is the President of the North Carolina-based M.M. Fowler, Inc., Family Fare Convenience Stores. In addition, he owns real estate-related companies including, BFP, LLC, Forest Hills Shopping Center, LLC, Cardinal Properties of NC, LLC and Winston Jacksonville Fund, LLC. Furthermore, he owns financial interests in various publicly traded companies including, but not limited to, IBM, Realty Income Corp., Toll Brothers, Digital Realty Trust Inc., Qualcomm Incorporated, AFLAC Inc., 3M Corp., Alphabet (Google), CVS Corporation, Amazon.com Inc., Cisco Systems Inc., Automatic Data Processing Inc., JP Morgan Chase & Co., and Apple Inc. Therefore, Dr. Barnes has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving his real estate holdings or any other entity in which he or his spouse own a financial interest come before the Board for official action.

Ms. Lisa Estep

The State Ethics Commission did not find an actual conflict of interest for Ms. Lisa Estep, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity. Ms. Estep is the Finance Director for Griffin-Estep Benefit Group Inc. Because the company could seek to provide services for the community college system, she has the potential for a conflict of interest. Therefore, Ms. Estep should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of her public duties should issues involving Griffin-Estep Benefit Group Inc. come before the Board for official action.

Mr. Thomas F Looney

The State Ethics Commission did not find an actual conflict of interest for Mr. Thomas F. Looney, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity. Mr. Looney is an Executive in Residence with Merlyn Mind, an education technology company. He and his spouse own financial interests in publicly owned companies, including but not limited to, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Danaher, Facebook, IBM, Adobe, Google, Bank of America, Alphabet, JP Morgan, United Health Care, PayPal and Lenovo. Therefore, Mr. Looney has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving any entity in which he or his spouse own a financial interest come before the Board for official action.

Mr. Bill McBrayer

The State Ethics Commission did not find an actual conflict of interest or the potential for a conflict of interest for Mr. Bill McBrayer. Mr. McBrayer fills the role of an at-large member on the Board. He is the human resources manager for Lexington Home Brands, a furniture manufacturer.

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Irwin, Chair of the Nomination Committee, reviewed the process for the election of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Irwin stated as required by law, the Election of Officers was held in July 2021, the Committee elected Dr. Breeden Blackwell as Chair and Mr. Bill McBrayer as Vice Chair. Mr. Irwin noted, Dr. Blackwell was serving in “hold-over status” and removed his name for consideration for appointment by the Senate and as such, the Office of Chair is considered vacant. Mr. Irwin state another election must be held and proceeded with the election for Chair of the State Board of Community Colleges. Mr. Irwin stated the Nominating Committee has received two (2) names for Board Chair, Ms. Lisa Estep and Mr. Burr Sullivan. Mr. Irwin opened the floor for nominations; hearing no nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. Mr. Irwin stated the Nominating Committee decided to vote via written ballot; General Counsel, Ms. Artis, and Senior Vice President of External and State Board Affairs, Mr. Jenkins, will collect the ballots and tabulate the votes. Mr. Irwin stated the Board member who are attending via phone will receive their ballots electronically via email and return via email. Mr. Irwin stated each voting member will receive one ballot for voting elections for Chair and that the ballots for candidate Chair are listed in alphabetical order. Mr. Irwin stated each voting member will only be allowed to vote one time and asked each voting member to print and sign their ballot. He stated voting members are required to sign his or her ballot, Ms. Artis and Mr. Jenkins will collect each ballot and ensure each voting member has signed his or her ballot. After all ballots are collected and ensuring signatures, Ms. Artis will read the selection for Chair and Mr. Jenkins will tabulate the votes, read the voting report aloud to the Board, and provide that voting report to the Chair. Mr. Irwin noted blank ballots do not count at all, illegal votes consist of illegible ballots, ballots cast with conceptual characters, ballots with more than one candidate’s name and ballots cast for Board members who are not properly on the ballot.

Mr. Irwin stated after receiving the voting report he will announce the winner for the election of Board Chair and passed the gavel to the new Chair who will assume their responsibilities. Mr. Irwin stated by law State Board must make the written ballots available to public inspection.

Ms. Whitford asked for a clarification of which members would be voting electronically, Mr. Jenkins responded the members voting electronically are Mr. Looney, Mr. Trapp, Treasurer Folwell, Mr. Nath, and Mr. Harris, the Lt. Governors designee.

Mr. Jenkins distributed the ballots; the members had a few minutes to complete their selection and the ballots were collected.

Ms. Artis read aloud each vote individually and Mr. Jenkins confirmed the tabulated votes. Nineteen (19) ballots cast, with zero (0) blank ballots and zero (0) illegal ballots. The tabulated votes are eight (8) votes for Ms. Lisa Estep and eleven (11) votes for Mr. Burr Sullivan. Mr. Irwin declared Mr. Burr Sullivan the elected Chair for the State Board of Community Colleges.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Holder made a motion to approve the August 20, 2021 minutes. Dr. Carraway 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.

FC – Ms. Whitford stated the committee has no changes.

PROG – Mr. Irwin stated the committee has no changes.

SBPG – Mr. Vaughan stated the committee has no changes.

Ms. Whitford made a motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Irwin seconded the motion; approved by voice vote. Dr. Carraway made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Mr. Vaughan seconded the motion; approved by voice vote.

Items approved on the Consent Agenda were as follows:

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE, Mr. Bobby Irwin, Chair

Curriculum Program Applications – Fast Track for Action (FTFA) (Attachment PROG 02)

Combined Course Library – Continuing Education (Attachment PROG 03)

FINANCE COMMITTEE, Ms. Ann Whitford, Chair

Allocation for Food and Nutrition Services Employment and Training Program Grant (Attachment FC 01)

Allocation of Title II Funding for Professional Development and Technical Assistance (Attachment FC 02)

Construction and Property – September 2021 (Attachment FC 03)

REPORTS:

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

- Presidents did not meet in August
- The Personnel and Professional Development Committee are meeting this morning to discuss the New President’s Orientation, Casual Conversations, and President’s Academy.
- NCACCP Programs Committee met this week.
- NCACCP Legislative and Finance Committees met on September 2nd to discuss the concept and strategy for legislative agenda for next 3 years.
 - NCACCP will meet again next week in Wilmington during the NCACCT Conference
 - Dr. McInnis has met with President Stith and his team to discuss the plan for the legislative strategy
 - NCACCP hopes to present to the SBCC Legislative and Finance Committees in December and the State Board in January
- NCACCP is excited about the Economic Impact Study that is in progress with EMSI (economic modeling company).
 - Overall economic impact study for colleges
 - Program specific economic impact study where colleges could pick 5 programs (Nursing, welding, IT are top 3)
 - ROI; value of our community colleges to their communities and the state

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

- Ms. Woodson stated the Trustees Association includes 746 local trustees from across the state.
 - NCACCT Chairman is Mr. Sam Dickens from Nash Community College
 - Executive Board that includes 18 trustee leaders from across the state, including the State Board liaison -- Ms. Lyn Austin, who is Board Chair at Johnston Community College.
- The Trustees Association continues to focus on three main areas of work: Legislative Advocacy, Quality Trustee Training and Communication and Collaboration with our Community College Partners.
- Next week, NCACCT will host Trustees Leadership Seminar in Wilmington and it's the first time in two years the association is able to gather in person due to the pandemic.
 - 256 people – have registered – will be adhering to the New Hanover County mask mandate and encourage social distancing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE, Ms. Ann Whitford, Chair

For Action

Ms. Whitford stated the Committee voted during Thursday's Committee meeting to approve the following consent agenda items via a combined vote.

- Allocation for Food and Nutrition Services Employment and Training Program Grant (Attachment FC 01) [CA]
- Allocation of Title II Funding for Professional Development and Technical Assistance (Attachment FC 02) [CA]
- Construction and Property – September 2021 (Attachment FC 03) [CA]

For Information

Annual Report to the State Building Commission on Construction Delegation Authority (Attachment FC 04)

Ms. Whitford briefly reviewed the report

Capital Improvement Funds Expended or Obligated (Attachment FC 05)

Mr. Whitford reviewed the report stating it is a historical view of dollar spent over the years.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE, Mr. Bobby Irwin, Chair

For Action

Annual Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on Career Coach Program (Attachment PROG 01)

Dr. Gold reviewed Attachment PROG 01.

On behalf of the Programs Committee, Mr. Irwin recommended and moved for approval of Attachment PROG 01. The item was approved by voice vote.

The following items were approved via the Consent Agenda:

- Curriculum Program Applications – Fast Track for Action (FTFA) (Attachment PROG 02) [CA]
- Combined Course Library – Continuing Education (Attachment PROG 03) [CA]

For Information

Mr. Irwin asked the Board to review the items below:

- Associate in Arts in Teacher Preparation (AATP) (A1010T) and Associate in Science in Teacher Preparation (ASTP) (A1040T) as Approved by the System President (Attachment PROG 04)
- Curriculum Program Applications as Approved by the System President (Attachment PROG 05)
- Curriculum Standard Revisions as Approved by the System President (Attachment PROG 06)

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

For Action

Recommendations for Initial Proprietary School Licensure (Attachment SBPG 01)

Mr. Vaughan briefly reviewed Attachment SBPG 01.

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

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES PLANNING MEETING REPORT

Dr. Crane review the information collected during the planning meeting held September 15th and 16th. He noted the results from the SWOT analysis to identify the strengths and weaknesses within the System, he acknowledged the report from Dr. Johnson, and the vision collected of what the System will look like with each of the three pillars identified by President Stith. He provided a brief overview and stated a more detailed report will be provided during October's Board meeting. He noted the three pillars are to 1) serve as a first choice in North Carolina for accessible and affordable education, 2) lead North Carolina's economic recovery and sustained growth into the future, and 3) become a national model for diversity and inclusion.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, Mr. Bill McBrayer, Chair

Mr. McBrayer provided a brief update on the legislative budget process. Mr. Fagg agreed with Mr. McBrayer's comments and updates. He stated the RDS residency determination action item approved by this Board became law a few weeks ago.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Stith spoke about the following:

- Discussed the vision and three pillars:
 - Serve as a first choice in North Carolina for accessible and affordable education
 - Lead North Carolina's economic recovery and sustained growth into the future
 - Become a national model for diversity and inclusion.
- Discussed DEI Task Force
 - Introduced the Chairs and Members
 - The charge was to review the State Board Code and other policies for elements that may negatively impact students of color

- Develop guidelines for community colleges to examine their own policies that would impact students of color
- Discussed the RFP process to select a vendor to review, design, aggregate, findings, provide and analysis and recommendations, Jobs for Future (JFF) was selected
- DEI Task Force Report Recommendations
 - Eliminate the Residency Determination Service (RDS) requirement for the Community College System that puts students of color at a distinct disadvantage and barrier to education
 - DEI language is needed in the current code of the State Board of Community Colleges to guide, direct, and unify statewide community college system
 - System Office to develop guidance for our 58 community colleges to eliminate student debt related to small fee charges or fee-related charges
- Discussed the work of the System Advisory Council
- Discussed the Hunt Lee Commission
- Provided updates on his college visits
- Discussed Your Hire Education marketing initiative

NEW BUSINESS

No new business noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next State Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2021, and Friday, October 15, 2021, 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 one (1) vacancy for the membership of the State Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Mr. Thomas Stith III, System President

Mr. Burr Sullivan, Chair