



**Board of Trustees Meeting
June 8, 2021
Virtual
Minutes**

Call to Order

Chair Janis King Robinson called the June Board of Trustees meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Invocation

Trustee Harold Barnes rendered the invocation.

Roll Call

Trustee Stephanie Johnson, Board Secretary, conducted roll call. Members present included Trustees Harold Barnes, Phyllis Bosomworth, Kim Brown, Lynne Bunch, Andy Culpepper, Chris Evans, Stephen Friedrich, Stephanie Johnson, Jan King Robinson, and Tracy Swain.

Oath of Office

The Honorable Judge Eula Reid conducted the oath of office for Trustee Stephen Friedrich.

State Government Ethics Act

Chair Janis King Robinson reminded the Board that the meeting will be conducted pursuant to the new amendments to the Open Meetings Act. She then read the State Government Ethics Act. No one mentioned a conflict of interest based on the materials received.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Johnson) to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021, Board meeting and April 23, 2021, Special Meeting of the Board. Roll call vote recorded unanimous approval. Motion passed.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Culpepper) to approve the consent agenda, which included:

Approval of Candidates for Promotion and Tenure

Roll call vote recorded unanimous approval. Motion passed.

Committee on Academic Excellence and Strategic Growth

Trustee Stephanie Johnson shared the report of the Committee. As information, the committee received an update on the SACSCOC Reaffirmation timeline from Dr. Payne, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The onsite visit was conducted virtually March 15 – 18, 2021 and the university received no recommendations for the Compliance Report and only three recommendations for the Quality Enhancement Plan. Dr. Payne updated regarding Check the Resume' which included majors from Music, Graphic Design and Digital Media. Additionally, Check the Resume' partnered with Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools: Northeastern High and Pasquotank County High. An update was provided regarding Aviation Science, Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Emergency Management regarding tactical meeting which was conducted to develop a plan for use after a hurricane or other disasters. Dr. Payne provided information regarding students from Graphic Design and Digital Media participating in the Longleaf Film Festival. She provided information regarding the new Provost Newsletter which was launched in February and another issue launched in April. A demonstration was provided to show the interactive nature of the newsletter. The Viking Summer School Program was launched and funds up to 6 credits in the summer session which targets students who fell behind. This initiative has reach over 500 students and funded over \$700,000 in grants. Dr. Payne presented information regarding the General Education + Summer School Learning Community which is designed to improve first-year instructional practices for summer school courses and currently has 16 faculty participating. She presented the criteria for Certificate Programs had been completed to align with community and employer demand. Additionally, the first certificate in over 15 years has been awarded. Dr. Payne reported Aviation Science has been authorized by FAA for R-ATP which allows graduates to receive their Airline Transport Certificate after 1,000 flight hours instead of 1,500 flight hours. Also, Aviation Science has entered a partnership with United Airlines Aviate pilot recruitment program. Dr. Payne was pleased to announce enrollment management new hires with James Pennix serving as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Ms. Carmen Wigfall serving as the Registrar. Mr. Pennix presented enrollment data with the number of completed application, admitted applicants, and confirmed students for 2018 through 2021. Information was also provided regarding freshman and transfer application. Current data was provided regarding the Common Black College Application and there are currently 64 confirmed applications.

Committee on Student Excellence

During the Committee on Student Excellence, Trustee Kim Brown shared that the Board received updates from the Student Government Association President, Mr.

Jimmy Chambers, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Dr. Gary Brown, and Athletics Department Athletic Director Mr. George Bright were shared.

SGA President Jimmy Chambers provided an update on behalf of SGA; Trustee Chambers highlighted 2020-21 goals for SGA; activities included students participating in the peaceful protest around the death of Andrew Brown; Presented the 2021-22 Executive Board for SGA; and events held this semester including Viking Fest and Law Enforcement today: Community Treat or Community Partners.

During the Division of Student Affairs update, Vice Chancellor Gary Brown provided an overview to include 1) AY 2020-21 In Review 2) Summer 2021 Updates 3) 2020-2025 Strategic Plan – Year 1 progress

AY 2020-2021 In Review

- COVID-19 Update – 948 COVID Test administered (Fall); 3192 (Spring); 2.27% positivity rate;
- Housing and Residence Life, AY 2020-2021 Occupancy rate 75%; Fall housing and meal grants - \$1,500 for all on-campus residents.
- Counseling Services: 407 student sessions with 1.5 FTE; Fall 2021 will be adding staff (total 2.5 FTE)
- Workforce Development – Project GA 28 workshops held; Summer Aviation Camp (June 8-11); 40 participants
- Community Connections: 98% of respondents provided positive feedback: Received \$60K since June 2020 and an additional \$25K from Microsoft
- Student Conduct & Community Standard, 14 conduct programs; 30 classroom presentations; 37 voter and civic engagement events; resolved 258 of 300 student conduct cases.

Summer Update

- New Student Orientation (June 16-17, 23-24, & July 7-8) – an overnight experience
- Student Affairs Summer Professional Development Series & highlights

Strategic Plan

- 2.1.5 Tracking student participation in clubs and org. – 309 virtual and in person; Vikings Engaged was highly utilized
- 2.6.4 Alumni/Career program (career development) – 9 separate sessions held; High profile internship opportunities; QEP – Quality Enhancement Plan - implementation update
- 2.7.1 Campus Climate Survey progress (diversity) – 537 total respondents (goal 500); Viking RACE grant Z. Smith Reynolds (focusing on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)
- 2.4.6 Seek additional funding support for needs around student services (Resource Dev.) (\$707,953 grants sought) \$156,000 Awarded

Dr. Brown also presented a video that highlighted Student Affairs Summer Professional Development Series – Theme “*Beyond the Riverbanks: Leading in Possibility*”

Athletics Director George Bright provided an overview of the Dept. of Athletics progress and highlights included the life and legacy of Dr. Bobby Vaughn, NCAA – Name Image and Likeness Update, Fall 2021 Return to Action, Student Athlete Recognition and Social Media Reminders; Provided an overview of the life of Bobby Vaughn; explained the Name Image-Likeness – the three elements that make up a legal concept known as right of publicity for Division II; Highlighted the 2021 Football Schedule to include the Down East Classic schedule of events; discussed the return to Action related to Vaccine Mandates; and presented the Social Media Quick Reference Guide highlighting the Impermissible activities;

Committee on Operational Excellence

Trustee Harold Barnes shared the following from this committee:

Infrastructure Update

Bias Hall

- Renovations for Bias Hall are completed.

Hugh Cale & Doles Hall

- Demolition of Hugh Cale and Doles Hall are completed.

Moore Hall

- Renovations for Moore Hall are completed.

GR Little Library

- Renovations for GR Little Library are completed.

All completed projects are in the final phase of checking off punch list items. Onyel Bhola extended the invitation to board members to look at these spaces by contacting her office.

800 Ton Chiller

- Received the 800-ton chiller and cooling tower, will be completed by end of June.

Hurricane Dorian Repairs

- Phase I Bids received of Viking Village, Univ. Tower Lower roof, JR Jenkins and MD Thorpe

Construction will be complete by end of summer.

- Phase II of designs of roof repairs for STEM McLendon, Griffin, ITC, Vaughan Ctr., Trigg and Dixon Hall are under review by SCO bidding will be end of June and construction will start in the fall

HVAC Control Upgrades

- Phase I of HVAC controls is complete. These bldg. include Griffin, McLendon, Lane, Fine Arts, Student Ctr and KE White. Remaining buildings will be completed by end of summer.

Vaughan Center Pool

- The completion of the Vaughan Ctr pool is expected by July. New flooring, wall repairs and paint are completed. Plumbing and new diving boards are in progress.

It was reported that RFP are being posted for the new campus Master Plan. Committee members will be reached to narrow down proposals.

Information Technology Updates

- Eric Zarghami was introduced as Interim CIO as Suresh Murugan resigned.

Communications and Marketing Update:

- Michelle Ball transitioned to another state, the positions of Exe. Dir of Strategic Communication and CIO are being screened.
- Branding initiative of Viking Plus to include website and other marketing tools are underway. Through detailed media outlets, ECSU is telling their story and activity through March, April and May are being seen.
- The office is working on improving process to enhance customer service.
- The development of an intranet is underway to communicate campus information so the website can be redesigned to be completed by end of summer.

Committee on Finance, Audit and University Advancement

Trustee Andy Culpepper reported that updates were received from Finance, Internal Audit, and University Advancement.

Vice-Chancellor for Business & Finance Lisa McClinton presented informational items only, which were the FY21 General Fund and Trust & Auxiliary budget updates, an update on approved FY22 Fee increases, additional COVID funding that ECSU has recently received, an updated financial outlook for the FY22 General Fund budget, an Operational Excellence Progress update, and an Auxiliary Services update. General Fund expenditures as of 3/31/21 were favorable at 68.3% of budget and Trust & Auxiliary fund balances are \$26.2 million, with \$15 million of that attributed to the recent \$15 million gift. On Tuition & Fees, the Board of Governors approved a \$30 increase to our Health Services fee and deferred the \$30 mandatory increase to the Campus Security Fee to FY23.

ECSU has received an additional \$14.8M in COVID funding since the last BOT meeting. The funds must be spent by May 2022. Regarding the FY22 General Fund budget, ECSU and the rest of the UNC system is hopeful that Enrollment Growth funds will be distributed on a recurring basis. The Operational Excellence Program Update indicated that progress has been made on Strategic Goal #5, which involves prioritizing budgetary resources according to the Strategic Plan. Finally, it was announced that Aramark was identified as ECSU's next Dining partner. Aramark currently serves 14 other North Carolina public and private colleges and universities and will make an approximately \$2M investment here at ECSU.

Chief Audit Officer Sharnita Parker presented two informational items only. The first item was an update on the required annual review of the Internal Audit Charter and the Audit Committee Charter. There were no changes warranted for either Charters during this annual review. The second item was a summary of completed reports completed this quarter, which were: Student Health Services Operations and CARES Act Funding. The Student Health Services Operations review was conducted to determine operational efficiency of services provided. There were 3 observations identified; and a follow-up will be conducted in the future. The CARES Act Funding review focused on the distribution of funds to all students who qualified for funds based on funding requirements. There were no observations identified for this review.

Vice Chancellor Anita Walton presented an update to the committee on fundraising progress to date, advancement operations enhancements, an overview of Advancement and UNC System benchmarking. Total dollars received to date are \$1,498,118. This is a difference of roughly \$129,000 over where we were last year. The goal for FY21 is \$1.4 million based on a three-year average. Steady trends for donor participation are reflected across various constituents. Current total number of donors is 1,423. Leadership giving for both the Foundation and Trustee Board giving are at 91% or greater with the anticipation of both boards being at 100% by the end of the week. Recent fundraising efforts were reviewed which included the Founders Day Scholarship Gala XIV and the 5th Annual Day of Giving. Both exceeded their fundraising goals. VC Walton provided details on current Advancement Operation Enhancements to include: 360 Double the Donation, Blackbaud Awards & Stewardship Management, Target Analytics, and Omatic. All platforms integrate with Raiser's Edge to improve efficiencies in the Advancement area and reduces errors. An overview of Advancement 101 was provided including the core disciplines and our goal for the ECSU University Advancement Model. Finally, an overview of FY19-20 UNC System Advancement Data was share for benchmarking was presented and discussed.

Committee on Regional Development

Trustee Bunch (on behalf of Trustee Tine) shared the following updates:

The committee has one strategic goal that's scheduled to be completed by June 30. Goal 6.2.3 Creating and utilizing a Board of Visitors. Chancellor Dixon is in the process of inviting the selected nominees to serve.

Trustee Bunch shared that Trustee Tine has convened local and regional economic development stakeholders who have expressed the need for a regional economic summit. These stakeholders agree such an event led by ECSU would be of great value to the region. The committee has set a tentative date of October 28, 2021, at the K. E. White Graduate Center. The invitation has been extended to Secretary Mabelle Sanders of the NC Department of Commerce to serve as the keynote speaker addressing Opportunities in the Northeast – Now and Future. We are awaiting Secretary Sanders' confirmation.

Dr. Kingsley Nwala, ECSU Professor of Business & Economic, will lead the Regional Economic Forecast and will pull the team together to begin that work.

The committee is exploring topics that will be of interest throughout the region. Some of the topics include:

- Renewable Energy
- Workforce Development
- Economic Gardening
- Farming
- Transportation & Broadband Opportunities

As of the second quarter, the Small Business and Technology Development Center, under the direction of Ms. Wanda Cooper, has served a total of 264 business.

On April 15, the SBTDC sponsored a regional job fair. 45 business participated.

Carson Rich, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for External Affairs – provided a briefing on the status of the state budget.

He noted that with less than a month before the new fiscal year begins, there is still no new state budget for North Carolina – and Senate leader Phil Berger has already indicated a willingness to move ahead with smaller, “mini” budget bills by mid-June.

Whether or not the legislature is able to reach an agreement on a new state budget or take the route of passing “mini” budgets, there has been reassurance that the UNC System agenda will be taken care of. The House, Senate and Governor's office have all given positive feedback regarding the legislative requests for the system and its campuses. Overall, many state officials – including Governor Cooper – have expressed

that they do not want a repeat of the prolonged budget stalemate that occurred in the 2019-2020 biennium.

Committee on University Governance

Chair Robinson shared the following: During the Committee on University Governance, a Human Resources update was provided. The Board members received information on personnel matters. Legal Affairs update and items requiring approval of the Board were discussed in closed session.

Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Karrie Dixon shared a detailed update on the Strategic Plan. She walked the Trustees through the process from beginning to date, noting the six key areas of Impact and action items (detailed report on file).

Chancellor reported a successful first year. Overall, out of 67 action items that began in year 1, only 5 are inactive due to the pandemic. Chancellor Dixon that the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members that contributed to the first year of implementing *Forging our Future*. She concluded by stating that we look forward to starting year 2 of the plan this fall, under regular operations. Chancellor thanked the Trustees for their continued support of ECSU.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwendolyn Sanders

Gwen Sanders

Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees & Deputy Chief of Staff