

**Bladen Community College**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Minutes of March 12, 2020**

**Members Present:** Dennis Troy, chair; Frank Gemma, vice chair; Mary Andrews; Pam Benton; Ray Britt; Lillian Bryant; Bruce Dickerson; Ricky Leinwand; Hayes Petteway; and Joseph Rozier

**Members Absent:** Brian D. Campbell and Larry Hammond

**Others Present:** Amanda Lee; Jeff Kornegay; Barry Priest; Jay Stanley; Sondra Guyton; Joy Grady; Cierra Griffin; Billy Ray Pait, III; Lisa DeVane; Emily Williams, Writer/Reporter, *The Bladen Journal*; Gary Grady, board attorney; and Missi Hester, recorder.

At 6:06 p.m., Chairman Dennis Troy called the meeting to order and asked if any trustee had a conflict or an appearance of conflict of interest. There were none.

Dr. Amanda Lee gave a prayer.

Mr. Troy asked Hayes Petteway to lead the group in saying The Pledge of Allegiance. The group recited the Pledge.

Ms. Hester called the roll. A quorum of the members was present.

Mr. Troy asked Mr. Kornegay to introduce the new college employees to the group.

Mr. Kornegay stated that Hope High had recently been hired as a nursing instructor but was not in attendance due to spring break. He went on to introduce Robert Wells who has recently been hired as a maintenance technician III. Mr. Wells was previously employed with Fayetteville Technical Community College for 14 years. Mr. Kornegay then introduced Kenny Barnes who has been hired as a computer specialist. Mr. Barnes has been working at the College part-time in the information technology department. Mr. Barnes is a Bladen Community College graduate.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

Mr. Troy presented the meeting agenda for Thursday, March 12, 2020 for review and approval.

Ms. Andrews made the motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt and carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda for Action Items:**

The consent agenda was presented by Mr. Troy. The action items for the March 12, 2020 meeting included Item 3.01 Approval of the minutes for the January 28, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Troy asked if any member of the Board felt as though the action item needed to be moved to the regular agenda for further discussion and the Board came to the consensus that the item did not need further discussion. The consent agenda for the March 12, 2020 meeting was approved with a motion by Mr. Britt and a second by Ms. Benton. The motion carried.

### **Student Government Report:**

Cierra Griffin provided the report for the Student Government Association (SGA) due to the meeting being rescheduled during spring break. Ms. Griffin stated that the members of the SGA had participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade in Elizabethtown in January.

Ms. Griffin passed around photos of the recent “What Not To Wear, What To Wear” event in March. She stated that Leinwand’s of Elizabethtown and Amy’s department store were the gold sponsors for the event. They provided professional career attire for the student models.

Ms. Griffin told the group that a professional photographer took photographs of attendees that can be used for LinkedIn profiles. The BCC cosmetology department provided services for students and local banks were present to offer investment advice. Ms. Griffin reported that the guest speaker for the event was Odell Bizzell, a nationally recognized motivational speaker and author. Mr. Bizzell provides motivational speeches regarding how to succeed.

Mr. Troy asked if there were any questions. Mr. Leinwand stated that the event was a success and they were proud to be part of the event. Mr. Troy thanked Ms. Griffin for her report.

Mr. Troy introduced Billy Ray Pait, III to the Board as the 2020 Academic Excellence award recipient for Bladen Community College. Mr. Pait, who goes by McLean Pait, stated that he and his siblings had been homeschooled but participated in the dual-enrollment program at the College. Mr. Pait stated that both of his sisters had successfully transferred to universities after their time at BCC. He told the group that the faculty and staff at the College had helped him by answering any questions that he has asked and that he couldn’t thank them enough for the time that they had invested in him. Mr. Pait reported that during his time at BCC, he has been inducted into the Sigma Kappa Delta English Honors Society and the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. He stated that he is deeply honored to be receiving the 2020 Academic Excellence Award. Mr. Pait stated that he feels that by attending BCC he will be successful not only when he transfers to a university, but in life in general. Mr. Pait told the group that at the end of the fall 2020 semester, he will have completed the Associates Degree in Science and the Associates Degree in Arts. He then plans to transfer to North Carolina State University to study electrical engineering.

### **Faculty Senate Report:**

Re Gena Gilliam, faculty senate president, was unable to attend the meeting due to spring break. Ms. Griffin provided the report for the faculty senate. Ms. Griffin stated that the College hosted a RISE site visit on February 7. Wake Community College and Sandhills Community College were presenters for the visit.

Ms. Griffin provided information regarding the Humanities and Fine Arts Series for the spring 2020 semester. She stated that Dr. Joseph Ross provided a presentation on Monday, February 24 about Judge John Parker who served as the alternate United States judge for the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial. A musical event featuring Ensemble Aubade was held on Thursday, February 27 at 2:00 p.m. in the College auditorium. Ms. Griffin stated that both programs are provided at no

cost and open to the public. These programs are made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and Bladen Community College.

Math and Science Day was held on March 6, 2020. Eighth-grade students from Emereau Elementary School and Clarkton School of Discovery attended the event. The English department hosted the annual writing contest for area eighth graders. There were 30 entries.

Ms. Griffin informed the Board that Mr. Cheston Saunders was recently reappointed to the research council of Flinn Scientific. He will provide feedback on scientific experiments.

Induction ceremonies have been planned for the Sigma Kappa Delta English Honors Society and the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society.

### **Staff Council Report:**

Ms. Griffin provided the report for the staff council. She serves as the interim chair-person for the staff council and Rachel Byrd serves as the secretary. Ms. Griffin stated that the staff council meets quarterly to discuss pressing topics and to share ideas. A new set of officers will be elected during the next quarterly meeting scheduled for May 20, 2020. The group is also planning to establish a student scholarship.

### **Bladen Community College Foundation Report:**

No report was given for the Foundation.

### **Academic and Student Affairs Committee Report:**

Barry Priest presented the fall 2019 curriculum enrollment report and financial aid information. He reported that the final headcount for this semester was 1,299, nearly a 7.5 percent increase over the 2018 fall semester. Forty-seven percent were enrolled full-time and fifty-three percent were part-time students. Mr. Priest shared with the group the number of students enrolled in each of the college's programs of study. Enrollment of high school students in the career and college promise program was 320 for the fall semester.

Mr. Priest stated that over 79% of students are enrolled in one or more distance education course. Fifty-five percent of students enrolled at the college are Bladen County residents and twenty-six percent of students reside in Robeson County. Mr. Priest reported that the College served a total of 29 counties during the fall semester. He shared additional information regarding student enrollment by gender, ethnicity, and age.

Mr. Priest stated that the estimated FTE for the 2019 summer and fall semesters as 726, which is a thirty percent increase at this point during the previous year. The college received full summer funding for summer classes. Mr. Priest shared with the Board the financial aid report for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The report detailed the type of aid being received, the total amount

received, and the number of students receiving financial aid. He reported that 471 students had received the Federal Pell Grant in the amount of over 2.7 million for the 2018-2019 year.

Sondra Guyton provided the fall 2019 continuing education report. Ms. Guyton stated that the continuing education department has three areas of occupational extension or workforce training courses including allied health programs, public safety, and workforce training courses. Each of these earn budget FTE. She explained that the courses that require more time to complete earn a greater amount of FTE. Both the fall 2018 and fall 2019 semesters earned a total of 76 FTE each.

Ms. Guyton reported on the college readiness program by stating that the college readiness program earned 20 budget FTE for the fall 2019 semester and 22 budget FTE for the fall 2018 semester. She also provided information regarding customized training courses and small business events.

Mr. Troy thanked Ms. Guyton for the way she represents the College when she presents to the Bladen County Commissioners.

#### **Building/Facilities/Grounds Committee Report:**

Jay Stanley reported on the Workforce Development and STEM/advanced manufacturing buildings. Natural gas sensors had not been installed in the Chemistry labs and attic space near a gas water heater. The second item to be noted was step lighting and contrasting carpet strips in the auditorium. The cubicle curtains in the EMS classrooms need to be completely private. Sound of instruction in one classroom can be heard in the classroom next to it. Mr. Stanley reported that three of the four issues that were noted are 95 percent resolved. A part for the gas sensor has been ordered to resolve the issue with the gas sensors.

Mr. Stanley reviewed with the Board the change orders regarding with the Workforce Development building. He reported during the previous meeting the total change order amount was approximately \$136,241. Three additional change orders have occurred since that time. Change orders 16 and 17 cost a total of \$21,368. The last change order resulted in a credit of \$38,510 bringing down the total change order cost to \$119,098.99. Mr. Stanley stated that there are funds still available to address the sound issues with the building.

Mr. Stanley provided an update on the STEM/Advanced Manufacturing building project. He stated that all of the construction work has been completed and the final inspection by the SCO was completed on December 18, 2019. The Certificate of Occupancy was provided that day. Mr. Stanley stated that the building is fully furnished and very well built. He stated that the College has been notified by sub-contractors of the building that they have not received payment from the contractor, CSI, for services. Close-out cannot occur until all the required documents have been completed and submitted to the architect. Mr. Stanley stated that he has referred the sub-contractors to the architect for the building and he has notified the bonding insurance company of the contractors. The amount owed by the contractors is approximately \$49,131.

Mr. Stanley provided an update on cyber security. He told the Board that in July of 2019, Richmond Community College had been a victim of ransomware and that over 50 servers shut down due to this. This caused the entire network of that college to be unusable except for their Datatel server. Mr. Stanley reported that BCC has implemented additional protection to ensure that this type of issue does not occur at the College. Anti-virus software has been updated, employee are being required to complete anti-phishing training, and onsite and offsite back up of the College servers. These preventative measures are used to reduce the likelihood of a ransomware attack but cannot totally assure that these issues will not occur.

#### **Fiscal Affairs Committee Report:**

Mr. Stanley reported that there were no findings for the college financial audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, by the North Carolina State Auditor.

Mr. Petteway reported on the foundation investments. He stated that the College currently has \$873,000 invested with Morgan Stanley to date. A foundation investment committee meeting with the Sizemore Group was held on Monday, March 11, 2020. Mr. Petteway stated that the College should stay the course and not panic. He stated the funds have been invested wisely and the market will eventually stabilize.

#### **Personnel Committee Report:**

Ms. Andrews reported that the presidential evaluation instrument will be delivered to the trustees electronically via email. She asked the trustees to complete Dr. Lee's evaluation so that the information can be provided to her during the upcoming meeting in May. A letter from the Board regarding the results of the evaluation will be sent to the North Carolina Community College State Board Chair in June 2020.

#### **President's Report:**

Dr. Amanda Lee began the report by stating that she and additional college personnel have been preparing for the COVID-19 event by keeping college staff and students informed of information as it is received from various outlets. Dr. Lee told the Board that presently, the System Office has encouraged the College to remain open. Dr. Lee informed the group that all events scheduled until the end of April have been canceled. She stated that college personnel would begin to make decisions regarding events scheduled in May during the first week in April. This would include the graduation ceremonies. Dr. Lee stated that Mr. Kornegay is working to move most classes online in the event of the College closing. She reported that the College is following local health department guidelines, System Office recommendations, and paying attention to what the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) are reporting. Dr. Lee reported that information would be updated regularly on the College website regarding procedures necessary in dealing with the virus.

Dr. Lee thanked the SGA and Mr. Leinwand for sponsoring the "What not to Wear, What to Wear" event. She also recognized Lillian Bryant for attending the Resilience movie and for

providing responses during the event. Brian Campbell attended a due diligence Golden LEAF meeting with college and county personnel regarding the trucking driving pad. Dr. Lee reported that Representative William Brisson arranged a meeting to have Golden LEAF president Scott Hamilton visit the College. She thanked Board members for their attendance to additional events held at the College.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Kornegay provided the results of the Board self-evaluations for 2019 and 2020. He stated that the Board self-evaluations are a SACS requirement. Mr. Kornegay reported that eleven of twelve trustees had submitted an evaluation. He stated that the evaluation was made-up of 22 questions and the responses from the Board were very positive. Mr. Kornegay shared some of the comments from the evaluations. Most stated that the Board is able to stay focused, works well as a group, and makes decisions based on the best interest of the College.

Dr. Lee and Mr. Kornegay reported on orientation of new trustees. The board retreat that was scheduled for February was to include trustee orientation. The retreat was canceled due to inclement weather. The trustees will receive their updated orientation packets during an upcoming meeting.

**New Business:**

Dr. Lee provided the trustees with a copy of some of the accomplishments of college personnel.

**Unfinished Business:**

There was no unfinished business.

At 7:46 p.m., Chairman Troy thanked the trustees for their attendance and service to the College. The meeting adjourned with a motion by Ms. Andrews and a second by Ms. Benton. Motion carried.

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Dennis Troy, Chairman

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Amanda Lee, Secretary