

BLADEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of March 24, 2015

Members Present: Dennis Troy, chair; Frank Gemma, vice chair; Mary Andrews; Landon Bordeaux; Shirley Bridger; Bruce Dickerson; Wayne Edge; Ricky Leinwand; Hayes Petteway; Charlotte Smith; Joan Washington; James Johnson, Student Government Association secretary; and Katiesha Hayes, Student Government Association public information officer.

Members Absent: Albert Beatty

Others Present: William Findt; Gary Grady; Jeff Kornegay; Jay Stanley; Linda Burney; Ray Sheppard; Barry Priest; and Missi Hester, recorder.

At 6:10 p.m., Chairman Dennis Troy announced that a quorum of members was present, called the meeting to order, and asked if any trustee had a conflict or an appearance of conflict of interest. There were none.

Ms. Bridger gave a prayer.

Ms. Hester called the roll.

The minutes and closed session minutes of the January 23, 2015, meeting were approved with a motion by Ms. Washington and second by Ms. Andrews

Student Government Report:

James Johnson, Student Government Association secretary, and Katiesha Hayes, public information officer for SGA presented information for the Association. Ms. Hayes stated that a successful blood drive was held at the college on Tuesday, March 24. She also reported that 13 members of the SGA had attended the Eastern Division meeting at Johnston Community College. Ms. Hayes stated that members would be attending the upcoming N4CSGA Spring Conference in Durham, North Carolina.

Mr. Johnson gave a heartfelt testimony to the board that detailed his personal background. He spoke about his family and his previous educational experience at Shaw University. Mr. Johnson stated that he joined the service when his time at the university ended and that he enjoyed eight years in the Army. He then entered the workforce but was not satisfied. It was then that he decided to enroll at Bladen Community College. He plans to graduate from the college with a degree in criminal justice in May 2016. Mr. Johnson stated that he began his time with the Student Government Association by serving as a senator. He now serves as the secretary for the group and plans to run for president for the upcoming year. Mr. Johnson is also a member of various groups on campus including the male

mentoring group, the criminal justice club, and the BCC basketball team. He invited those in attendance to the championship basketball game that will be held on Saturday, March 28, at 6:00 p.m. at the Elizabethtown Middle School. Mr. Johnson was given a round of applause at the conclusion of his testimony.

Mr. Troy stated that the college gives students hope, opportunities, and jobs.

Faculty Senate Report:

Ray Sheppard presented the faculty senate report. Mr. Sheppard reported that Lisa DeVane, department chair of math and sciences, would be hosting a math and science fair on May 18, 2015. All Bladen county eighth graders will be invited to attend. He also stated that Joyce Bahhouth, department chair of the English department, would host a writing contest for all eighth grade students in the county. The winners will receive gift cards and plaques and will have their work published in The Ink Quill.

Mr. Sheppard informed those in attendance that the college History Club sponsored a presentation by Dr. Tom Martin, decorated Vietnam veteran and retired Army officer. Dr. Martin recounted his experiences as a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War. Mr. Sheppard stated that the History Club also presented a program titled "Before Made Men: Theodore Roosevelt as a Progressive Era Advertising Icon." The presenter was Dr. Ryan Anderson, a faculty member and research historian at University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Mr. Sheppard reported that members of the History Club toured the Battleship North Carolina in Wilmington on Saturday, March 21. He stated that over 60 individuals were in attendance for the tour.

Mr. Troy thanked Mr. Sheppard for his report.

Bladen Community College Foundation Report:

Linda Burney gave the report for the Foundation. She thanked those present at the meeting who attended the February 20 social at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Gemma. She stated that she has received positive feedback from the event that was attended by 75 individuals.

Ms. Burney stated that Tiina Mundy has completed the 100 miles of the Finn Swiim challenge that began in October 2014.

Ms. Burney reported to the group that the third annual foundation scholarship luncheon will be held on Thursday, March 26. She stated that the event would give scholarship recipients the opportunity to thank the donors for the scholarships that they have received. Former BCC associate degree nursing graduate Ashley Hester Lennon will serve as the guest speaker for the event. Ms. Lennon was a scholarship recipient while attending the college.

Ms. Burney stated that the foundation campus appeal for faculty and staff would begin in April. She informed the group that Kathryn Findlen and Charlie Magnone will perform a concert on Friday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. at Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Report:

Jeff Kornegay presented information which compared fall 2014 and spring 2015 student retention rates. Mr. Kornegay stated that 1330 students enrolled in the fall 2014 semester and that 231 students did not return for the spring 2015 semester. He said that this is an 83% retention rate for the spring semester. Mr. Kornegay shared a break down by program of study that listed the number of students who were enrolled during the fall and listed how many did not return for the spring semester. Mr. Kornegay stated that typically enrollment is lower during the spring semester. Students who attended during the fall 2014 semester who did not return for the spring 2015 semester were contacted to determine the reason they did not re-enroll. Mr. Kornegay stated that a retention task force of college employees was formed to implement strategies to retain students. The retention task force was created last year in an effort to increase student first year progression. He told the group that the college is being proactive by offering a new student orientation, workshops for students, and tutoring in the learning enhancement center. Mr. Kornegay informed the board that Twyla Davis, director of institutional effectiveness and planning, is offering professional development workshops for faculty. A list of community resources has also been provided to faculty members to share with students. Mr. Kornegay stated that the college will participate in the Completion By Design program that emphasizes student success. He stated that a recent state conference held at Guilford Technical Community College had presentations concerning building student engagement, accelerating programs of study, structured programs of study, and front door experiences and advising. A retreat is being planned at Guilford Technical Community College in May to review the college's plan.

Mr. Troy thanked Mr. Kornegay for his report.

Dr. Gemma reported to the board that the academic and student affairs committee met prior to the board meeting to discuss the medical office program approval. He stated that the program provides additional medical courses for the college to offer. Dr. Gemma stated to those present that the academic and student affairs committee recommends approval of the medical office program. Mary Andrews seconded the recommendation and the vote carried unanimously.

Dr. Gemma stated that the academic and student affairs committee also reviewed a Title IX Policy for the students and employees that encompasses discrimination

and sexual harassment/violence prevention. He stated that the policy is quite lengthy but the committee had discussed it and brings forth its recommendation for approval. Charlotte Smith seconded the recommendation and the vote carried unanimously.

Barry Priest presented a student testimony of David Howell, an emergency medical services graduate. Following the presentation Mr. Priest stated Mr. Johnson's earlier testimony also explained that he had been able to overcome barriers because of the college employees and resources that the college provides students. Mr. Priest invited those present to the academic excellence program on Wednesday, April 1, at 11:00 a.m. in the college auditorium. He also invited them to the upcoming graduation ceremonies to be held on Tuesday, May 19, at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Building/Facilities/Grounds Committee Report:

Dr. Findt provided an update regarding the Golden LEAF/Economic Development Administration grant. He stated that the college is requesting \$540,000 from the Golden LEAF Foundation. Dr. Findt told the board that Edward Dent, dean of engineering and business programs, is completing a grant proposal for the Economic Development Administration. The college plans to seek \$2 million in funding from the Economic Development Administration. He stated that the final decisions regarding funding for both grants will be in June.

Jay Stanley reported on renovation and construction projects. The Board of Commissioners for Bladen County approved an operating budget for the college that included a \$30,000 appropriation to replace a failing bridge culvert. The total cost was \$18,500, which left a balance of \$11,500. The county approved the request by the board to reallocate the remaining funds to be used for two facility needs that required immediate attention. The college replaced a failed 7.5 ton heat pump serving the electrical shop at the cost of \$6,918. Mr. Stanley informed those present that the flat roof section of the learning enhancement center was repaired at the cost of \$5,260. The cost for these projects was \$12,178, with a total cost to the college of \$678. He also told the board that a compressor was replaced in a HVAC unit at the cost of \$1,500. Two HVAC units serving the East Arcadia Senior Center were replaced at a total cost of \$7,400. One of the units was funded by the college and the other was funded by the county. He also stated that electrical and cosmetic repairs had been completed in the cosmetology area of the college. Mr. Stanley shared pictures of the recent bookstore renovation to those present. He stated that the renovation cost approximately \$50,000.

Fiscal Affairs Committee Report:

Hayes Petteway gave the Foundation Investment committee report. The committee recently held its initial meeting on Tuesday, March 17 and the group approved the by-laws of the committee and made suggestions of investment professionals capable of investing foundation funds in a profitable manner. Mr. Petteway stated that the group would be meeting again to select an investment company to handle approximately \$600,000 in foundation funds.

Personnel Committee Report:

Ms. Washington stated that there would be a closed session meeting to discuss a personnel item.

President's Report:

Missi Hester presented the board with information regarding the North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees spring law/legislative seminar to be held at the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel, April 8-10, 2015. She stated that Mr. Leinwand, Mr. Troy, Ms. Smith, and Dr. Findt would be attending this training. The deadline to register is March 25.

Mr. Kornegay stated that the statement of economic interest forms are due by April 15, 2015. He provided forms to individuals in need of them.

Dr. Findt presented a resolution to be sent to Bladen County representatives at the North Carolina General Assembly urging their support of the North Carolina Community College System by returning management flexibility funding to the colleges, by appropriating \$7 million to establish funding to match business, philanthropic and local funding to place community college-employed career coaches in high schools, and by appropriating funding to close the current technology gap. Also requested is year-round funding for universal general education transfer courses which transfer to all UNC constituent institutions. Also requested is in-state tuition for veterans and dependents. Dr. Findt and Mr. Troy signed the resolution following approval by the board.

Dr. Findt invited the group to attend the Bladen Community College Futures Conference on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. He stated that the purpose of the conference would be to discuss the mission and purpose of the college and to ask for input.

Dr. Findt provided the group with a copy of *The New York Times* article "The Promise and Failure of Community Colleges."

Old Business:

No old business was brought before the board.

New Business:

No new business was brought before the board.

Closed Session:

At 7:44 p.m. following a motion by Ms. Washington and a second by Mr. Petteway, Mr. Troy stated that pursuant to Statute G.S. 143.318.11(A6) the board would go into closed session to discuss personnel matters.

At 8:00 p.m. Ms. Smith moved that the board return to open session, seconded by Ms. Washington; motion carried and the board returned to open session.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business was brought before the board.

At 8:05 p.m., Chairman Troy thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting adjourned with a motion by Ms. Smith and a second Mr. Dickerson.

Dennis Troy, Chairman

William Findt, Secretary