

**Bladen Community College**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Minutes of September 22, 2015**

**Members Present:** Dennis Troy, chair; Frank Gemma, vice chair; Mary Andrews; Albert Beatty; Landon Bordeaux; Bruce Dickerson; Wayne Edge; James McVicker; Charlotte Smith; and Joan Washington.

**Members Absent:** Ricky Leinwand and James Johnson, SGA president

**Others Present:** William Findt; Gary Grady; Jeff Kornegay; Sondra Guyton; Barry Priest; Sheila Dockery; Lisa DeVane; Linda Burney; Travis Locklear; and Missi Hester, recorder.

At 6:05 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.

Mr. Troy welcomed Sheriff James McVicker to the board.

Mr. Troy gave a prayer.

Ms. Hester called the roll.

The minutes of the August 25, 2015, meeting were approved with a motion by Ms. Andrews and second by Ms. Washington.

The closed session minutes of the August 25, 2015, meeting were distributed, reviewed by the board, approved with a motion by Ms. Washington and second by Mr. Bordeaux.

**Student Government Report:**

Barry Priest gave the report for the Student Government Association. Mr. Priest reported that the SGA provided lunch for all students and college employees following fall convocation on September 1.

Mr. Priest stated that the SGA sponsored Constitution Day on Thursday, September 17. Copies of the United States Constitution were given to students.

**Faculty Senate Report:**

Lisa DeVane, faculty senate president, presented the faculty senate report. Ms. DeVane reported that the college has been approved to offer Microsoft certifications free of charge to students and employees.

Ms. DeVane informed the board that the college is offering ACA 115, Success and Study Skills, to Bladen County sophomore students. Mr. Troy asked if the course would transfer. Ms. DeVane stated that it would not transfer. She informed the board that the public schools wanted this course to be offered to sophomores. Mr. Kornegay told the group that this course is required by most programs at the college and it is being offered through the North Carolina Investing in Rural Innovative Schools (NCiRIS) program.

Ms. DeVane reported that the history club will be hosting Dr. Charles Beem on Wednesday, September 30, at 11:00 a.m. in the college library. Dr. Beem will give a presentation on the rule of British queens. The history club will also host the annual ghostwalk of historic downtown Wilmington on Friday, October 23. Ms. DeVane stated that the North Carolina Humanities Council and Bladen Community College will be hosting Mr. Kevin Duffus as part of the college's fall writer's series on Tuesday, October 20, at 11:00 a.m. in the college library. Mr. Duffus will speak on Blackbeard the pirate. Ms. DeVane invited those present to the events.

Ms. DeVane told those in attendance that Dr. Joyce Bahhouth will be presenting at the North Carolina Community College Association of Distance Learning conference on October 26 in Raleigh.

Ms. DeVane informed the group that Ms. Teresa Hester and Mr. Chad McKenzie are co-chairs the college's United Way campaign. The college goal is \$5500 and student clubs will be fundraising to fulfill the student goal of \$500 of that amount.

Mr. Troy thanked Ms. DeVane for her report.

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

Linda Burney distributed reservation cards for the college Foundation's fall fundraiser to be held at Camp Clearwater, White Lake, on Thursday, October 1, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. She thanked the trustees who had already registered to attend. Ms. Burney stated that the fundraiser provides a large source of unrestricted funds for the Foundation and she expects around 150 individuals to attend.

Ms. Burney commended the 2015-2016 ambassadors for their dedication to the college. She stated that they have been busy assisting with events on and off campus.

Ms. Burney informed the board that the NCCORD fall conference will take place October 21 through October 23 in Shelby, North Carolina. Ms. Burney is president of the North Carolina Council for Resource Development (NCCORD) and she stated that during the conference, Dr. Findt will take part in a presidential panel with six other community college presidents. Mr. Kennon Briggs will be the keynote

speaker for the conference. Fifty-one community colleges in North Carolina are members of NCCORD.

Mr. Troy encouraged everyone to attend the foundation event in support of the Foundation.

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

Barry Priest provided a report regarding curriculum fall registration. Mr. Priest stated 1,357 students were enrolled during fall 2014. The projected total for fall 2015 curriculum enrollment is 1,337. Mr. Priest indicated that enrollment is currently down by two percent but would be around the same as last year once all students have been registered for the semester.

Mr. Priest reported that there are two new programs being offered during the fall 2015 semester. Medical office administration currently has 20 students enrolled and emergency medical science bridging program has nine students enrolled.

Mr. Priest stated that 78% of students are taking one or more distance education courses. He informed those present that the college is seeing a downturn in students taking developmental courses with only 17% taking one or more development courses during the current semester. Mr. Priest reviewed enrollment by gender, enrollment by ethnicity, enrollment by age, and by county.

Mr. Priest reported that the current rate of tuition is \$72 per credit hour. Beginning in January 2016 the rate will increase to \$76 per credit hour. He stated tuition is deposited into the State Treasury as a departmental receipt that supports the System's operating budget.

Sondra Guyton provided a report on continuing education fall registration.

Ms. Guyton stated that 818 students have been registered for fall courses and registration is on-going. She informed the board that 1,586 students were enrolled during the fall 2014 semester and she expects enrollment for the current semester to exceed that number.

Ms. Guyton provided a list of community service courses that are being offered by the college. She asked the group to share the information with others that may be interested and to contact community service director Stephanie Gonzalez if further information is needed. Charlotte Smith asked if there is an age requirement for these courses to which Ms. Guyton replied participants must be 16 years of age or older to participate.

Travis Locklear, director for basic skills, provided a report concerning the high school equivalency program. Mr. Locklear reviewed the demographics of current basic skills students. He stated that individuals between the ages of 25 to 44 compose the largest group of basic skills students and that the next largest group is

between the ages of 16 to 18. Mr. Locklear informed the board that many of the graduates enroll in curriculum courses once they earn the adult high school diploma or high school equivalency.

Mr. Locklear stated that there has been a drop in the number of high school graduates at the college as well as in the state. At the end of 2014, every community college in North Carolina, except Southwestern Community College, experienced a decrease in graduation rates. When he began work at the college, the cost of the tests was \$7.50 and it has risen to \$20 per section for a total of \$80. Ms. Smith asked if the test for the high school equivalency exam is more difficult than previously and Mr. Locklear replied that it is now a computerized test and students are required to write essays for the social studies and science sections of the exam.

Mr. Locklear stated that there is a need to develop an alternative for earning a high school equivalency diploma through a combination of established academic elements. He informed the group that some students who enter the high school program have completed courses that can be used toward earning the high school equivalency credential. These include high school courses, adult high school courses, high school equivalency assessments, standardized testing, and college courses. Mr. Locklear shared a copy of the multiple pathways to high school equivalency document.

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

No building/facilities/grounds business was brought before the board.

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

Sheila Dockery provided the fiscal affairs report. Ms. Dockery stated that the college is just past the second month of the year and at the current time approximately 16% of the county budget is expended for the year. She stated that the college has not received the state budget. Ms. Dockery reported that the finances are in order at this time.

Ms. Dockery asked if there were questions. Mr. Troy thanked her for serving as interim vice president for finance.

Mr. Troy provided information regarding the Foundation Investment Committee. Mr. Troy reported that the committee chose the Sizemore Group, an investment firm in Raleigh, to manage \$650,000 of Foundation funds.

Mr. Priest presented the waiver of graduation fees for certificates for approval. He provided a copy of the memo and current fee schedule effective July 1, 2015. Mr. Priest stated that the college would like to reduce costs for graduates and encourage students enrolled in diploma or degree programs to seek certificate credentials. He stated that the college offers approximately 40 certificates in various

program areas and students are not applying for them and possibly not receiving what they have earned. Mr. Priest informed the board that this would further support the Completion by Design initiative by removing barriers for student completion. Mr. Priest stated this would be an addendum to the current fee schedule.

Dr. Gemma made the motion to waive the graduation fee for certificates. Ms. Smith seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Findt informed the State Board that the college does have a base budget that was approved by the system board on Friday, September 18. He stated that Governor McCrory signed the State budget on the same day. Dr. Findt explained that the college would receive the full budget from the system office in the coming weeks. The State Board meets on October 30 and will vote on the budget at that time. Dr. Findt reported that Jennifer Haygood, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for the North Carolina Community College System, informed him that the college would receive a budget prior to October 30 and the BCC board of trustees could approve the budget at the upcoming meeting on October 27 pending no changes by the State Board.

Dr. Findt reported that a number of good things did happen for the college. He stated the budget includes funding for all curriculum summer courses. Dr. Findt told the board that the System received \$10 million dollars for salary adjustments for the colleges. This would be approximately a one percent increase for community college employees. Dr. Findt told those present that employees would receive a \$750 bonus in December. Dr. Findt reported that curriculum tuition would increase by four dollars per credit hour beginning January 2016.

Dr. Findt informed the group that the North Carolina senate has proposed a \$400 million dollar bond for community colleges. Dr. Findt encouraged the trustees to contact Representative Brisson to support the bond. Bladen Community College would receive approximately \$7.466 million dollars for new construction and renovation projects if the bond passes as proposed by the senate.

Dr. Findt stated that members of the board who attended the NCACCT seminar in Wilmington had the opportunity to meet Mr. George Fouts, who is serving as Interim President of the North Carolina Community College System.

Dr. Findt invited those present to the Seafood and Sunset Foundation fundraiser on Thursday, October 1.

Mr. Troy encouraged the trustees to contact Representative Brisson to support the senate in the bond issue.

**Personnel Committee Report:**

A closed session meeting was held to discuss personnel matters.

At 7:25 p.m. following a motion by Ms. Washington and a second by Mr. Beatty, Mr. Troy stated that pursuant to Statutes G.S. 143.318.11(A6) and G.S. 143.318.11(A3) the board would go into closed session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Ms. Smith moved that the board return to open session, seconded by Mr. Bordeaux; motion carried and the board returned to open session at 7:34 p.m.

Ms. Washington made the motion to accept Jay Stanley's appointment as vice president for finance and administration. Sheriff McVicker seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

No old business was brought before the Board.

**New Business:**

No new business was brought before the Board.

At 7:36 p.m., Chairman Troy thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting adjourned with a motion by Ms. Andrews and a second by Ms. Washington.

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Dennis Troy, Chairman

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William Findt, Secretary