

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
COMMITTEE AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Sledge Board Room and via Zoom  
Sandhills Community College  
August 23, 2021, 5:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Trustees George Little, Chairman; Larry Caddell, Vice Chairman; Joe Clendenin, Secretary; Gary Evans

**STAFF:** Dr. John Dempsey; Brenda Jackson; Heather Lyons; Ron Layne

**REMOTELY VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Trustees Gene Horne; Connie Lovell; Vincent Gordon; Helen Probst Mills; Dr. Sandy Stewart; Irish Pickett; Art Blue; Tim Carpenter; Avery Campbell, SGA President; Dr. Rebecca Roush; Dr. Julie Voigt; Andi Korte; Lindsey Farmer; Dr. D.J. Farmer; Doug Smith; Germaine Elkins; Dr. Twana McKnight; Dr. Kirk Lynch; Libba Thomas; Nevius Toney; Jessica Locklear; Stephanie Lang; Matthew Dial

Mr. Little called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Little read the statute regarding conflicts of interest to the Trustees and asked the Board if there were any potential conflicts with the agenda items to be discussed. Hearing none, Mr. Little proceeded to the next item of business.

Ms. Lyons administered the Oath of Office to Larry Caddell, Helen Probst Mills, and Gary Evans for reappointment to the Board. All members affirmed their acceptance.

Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clendenin made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Campbell presented the Student Government Association (SGA) report. Ms. Campbell reported that all Student Government officers have completed training for their official duties. Ms. Campbell completed a student leadership program during the summer as well. A search has begun for the position of Student Life Assistant. New club members are being solicited in an effort to build student participation and increase student numbers. The SGA now has five new student ambassadors.

Mr. Caddell reported for the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Mr. Caddell reported that there is now a new Little Hall naming opportunity. Ms. Elkins announced that the “Ronald and Marilyn Toelle Center for Engineering, Construction, and Computer Technologies” will be made possible as the result of a gift agreement with Ronald Toelle. Mr. Caddell made a motion to

approve the naming of the “Ronald and Marilyn Toelle Center for Engineering, Construction, and Computer Technologies” in Little Hall. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Layne reported that negotiations are underway with the Old North State League, Inc., (ONSL) regarding the construction of a baseball field to be located at the site of the current Sandhills Community College (SCC) softball field. Attorney John May is reviewing contract information and has made suggestions for modification. If contract negotiations are met on a final contract, games would begin in summer of 2022. ONSL will spend \$100,000 to get the baseball field up-to-standard and will use the field during the months of June and July only. ONSL proposes a 10-year lease and SCC would like to include a provision that after three years should the project prove unfavorable, SCC would have a buyout possibility. Discussion ensued as to whether beer sales would be allowed during games. Mr. Layne advised that SCC should provide ONSL with a contract before September, 2021. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve that SCC will move forward with offering an agreement with ONSL pending further investigation on matters related to alcohol consumption on campus. Ms. Pickett seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the Larry Caddell Training Center, Ms. Jackson reported that the architectural firm of Stewart-Cooper-Newell was hired to revise the master plan, with an initial meeting with James Stumbo on August 16, 2021. The revised master plan will be completed and reviewed. The dedication for the Breakthrough Construction Center honoring the Weiss Family Foundation is scheduled for October 19, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Smith reported that a project approval request has been submitted to the Town of Southern Pines regarding the water project at Foundation Hall. The Town of Southern Pines has made further demands, and the Wooten Company will address those issues. The request will be resubmitted once those demands have been addressed.

Plans are being considered to construct an amphitheater on the SCC campus. Dr. Dempsey described the amphitheater as a covered structure which will accommodate various local talent, to include the Carolina Philharmonic. The theater will be located on the lawn area behind the Dempsey Student Center. This project is to be considered a future endeavor.

Ms. Jackson reported that as a result of advertising for architectural and designer services for the Meyer Hall science lab renovation, 15 proposals have been received. Ms. Jackson, Doug Smith, Ken Dowdy, and Dr. Roush will serve on a committee to review the proposals. A meeting will take place on Thursday, August 27, 2021, for selection of architects to interview for the project that will renovate the science labs. The majority of the project is for HVAC, and we will be looking very strongly at the mechanical aspect. Once the interviews have been completed, the committee will ask the Board for approval of the selected architect.

The campus security camera project is nearing completion. Remaining cameras were installed on our Moore Campus at a cost of \$200,000. Federal funds were used for this project. All buildings, parking lots, and common areas will now have camera coverage. The Hoke County campus security camera project was completed last year.

Mr. Horne reported for the Finance Committee. Mr. Horne reviewed for approval the Travel Authorization for the President, Chief Operating Officer, and Board of Trustees. Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the Travel Authorization for the President, Executive Vice President, and Board of Trustees. Mr. Clendenin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Horne called on Ms. Thomas to report on the Eagle Internal Control Review. Ms. Thomas reported that the annual internal control review of Financial Aid, Finance, and Information Technology was completed with no exceptions. Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the Eagle Internal Control Review. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Horne called on Ms. Jackson to report on insurance renewals. Ms. Jackson submitted information via email regarding new rates to Board members for 2021-2022. The Board returned a 100% approval. Coverage began July 1, 2021. Ratification of the email poll is requested. Mr. Horne made a motion to ratify the email poll approving 2021-2022 insurance rates. Mr. Caddell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Thomas reviewed information regarding the reclassification of uncollectable student accounts. Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the reclassification of uncollectible student accounts. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Horne reviewed the status of the Financial Report and the State and County Bond Funds through June 30, 2021, with no Board action required. Mr. Horne also reviewed the 2021-2022 Tuition and Registration fees with no Board action required.

Ms. Thomas reported that a budget request of \$529,317 was submitted to Hoke County Commissioners resulting in a \$488,885 approved 2021-2022 Hoke County budget.

Mr. Horne reported that a \$3,076 stipend will be paid to all full-time employees in August using federal funds. Stipends are for technological training during the COVID crisis.

Mr. Evans reported for the Personnel Committee. Mr. Evans reviewed personnel action items requiring Board approval, to include three new hires. In addition, Dr. Julie Voigt has been promoted to Vice President of Instruction and Tammy Stewart has been promoted to Dean of Learning Resources. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the new hires and promotions. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Evans reviewed the 2021-2022 Holiday Schedule. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Holiday Schedule. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Evans asked that the Board review the Curriculum and Personnel Information items with no Board action required.

Dr. Stewart reported for the Educational Programs Committee. Dr. Roush reviewed information regarding the College catalog, citing no major changes in information. Dr. Stewart made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 College Catalog. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clendenin reported for the Planning Committee. The staff made revisions to the Mission Statement and College goals. Ms. Farmer said that it is a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission (SACS) requirement that the Mission Statement be reviewed on a regular basis. She noted that all revisions and updates were included in an information packet sent previously to each Board member. Mr. Clendenin made a motion to approve the Mission Statement. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clendenin said that Ms. Farmer and her team have been working on a revised College Strategic Plan (CSP). A draft of the CSP will be sent to the Planning Committee. The committee will meet on September 14, 2021, in the Sledge Board Room at 11:30 a.m. to update revisions to be made in the CSP. The full document will be presented at the October Board of Trustees meeting. The Policies and Procedures manual is also under review and will be presented at a later date.

Mr. Layne presented an SCC athletics update. At present, 64 athletes are involved in men's basketball, women's volleyball, cross country, and men's and women's golf.

Ms. Pickett reported for the Student Affairs Committee. Dr. Roush reported that there are no changes to the Student Handbook this year. Ms. Pickett made a motion to approve the Student Handbook for 2021-2022. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Elkins presented the Foundation Report. Ms. Elkins reported that the Foundation has recently received two substantial gift commitments. Dr. Stone is sending an additional \$100,000 gift to add to his endowment. Julia Connelly contributed \$50,000 which was in part motivated by her appreciation of the success of the farm to table garden in culinary, named after her late husband, Dan Connelly. The next Foundation Board meeting will be held on October 18, 2021. Ms. Elkins offered thanks to Libba Thomas and Katie DuPont for completing a very timely audit. A clean audit is expected. The Foundation will continue with plans to raise \$60 million for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the College. The Foundation will host culinary lunches for guarantors in the coming months. Ms. Elkins said that a very special SCC student, Courtney Partridge, will be featured on this year's guarantor brochure. She is the widow of Thomas Partridge, a former SCC

instructor who passed away in March. The annual golf tournament will take place on Tuesday, August 31, at Pine Needles and Mid Pines Golf Resorts.

Dr. Dempsey presented the President's Report. The ribbon cutting for the Honor Foundation will take place on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. in the Stone Courtyard. The Honor Foundation is a group that provides reintegration training for Navy Seals. This elite group of soldiers will become students on the SCC campus as part of the reintegration effort. The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) is requiring proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID test for entrance into the ACCT convention. Board members will receive **an email** addressing this issue. Dr. Dempsey addressed enrollment concerns. College enrollment is down 16%. An initiative is in place where Ron Layne will be reaching out to many offices across campus for information that will aid in the enrollment challenges that the College now faces. Discussion ensued regarding the Sandhills Promise program and how to ensure that those in the community with rising high school students could best be informed of the program. Mr. Caddell, Ms. Lovell, and Mr. Evans offered ideas which contributed to awareness of the program. Ms. Probst Mills suggested that a survey take place to gain a better perspective of lack of awareness. Ms. Korte reported that Continuing Education classes are running well and that most programs are a two-year certificate program. Regarding COVID, Dr. Dempsey reported that approximately 70% to 80% of the staff and faculty have been vaccinated. The campus continues to practice social distancing and masks are required. Incentives are in place to encourage vaccinations. A vaccine clinic will take place on campus on August 26, 2021. A \$5,000 bonus will be awarded to the winning student who is chosen out of those turning in proof of vaccination. Dr. Dempsey expressed the need to remain vigilant in our efforts to support our colleagues, students, and families during this challenging time.

Mr. Little encouraged everyone to offer suggestions that might aid in the attendance effort and to be mindful of obeying COVID requirements.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George Little, Chairman of the Board

Joseph Clendenin, Secretary of the Board