

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

**Clement Dining Room, Dempsey Hall
December 11, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Trustees George Little, Chairman; Larry Caddell, Vice Chairman; Joe Clendenin, Secretary; Gene Horne; Tim Carpenter; Gary Evans; Connie Lovell; Bruce Hurst; Irish Pickett; Vincent Gordon; BethAnn Pratte; Stephen Woodward; Helen Probst Mills; Andrew Jimenez, SGA Vice President

STAFF: Dr. Sandy Stewart; Ron Layne; Teresa Sheets; Dr. Rebecca Roush; Dr. Julie Voigt; Libba Thomas; Dr. D.J. Farmer; Germaine Elkins; Dr. Twana McKnight; Dr. Fallon Brewington; Chreatha Alston; Steven Garner; Matthew Dial; Michelle Bauer; Danaka Bunch; Lindsey Farmer; Kirk Lynch; Dana Cuellar

GUESTS: John Dempsey

Mr. Little called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He 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.

Mr. Hurst offered a moment of prayer and reflection.

Dr. Stewart asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Board of Sandhills Community College Trustees. Mr. Little declined to be nominated as Board chair and made a motion to elect Mr. Caddell as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caddell asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. Mr. Horne made a motion to elect Tim Carpenter as Vice Chairman. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Little made a motion that the nominations be closed. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Horne made a motion to nominate Mr. Clendenin as Secretary to the Board. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter made a motion to elect John May as Board attorney. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Dempsey paid tribute to Mr. Little, congratulating him for his outstanding work as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Clendenin made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Pickett seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Shenika Ward, Dean of Diversity and Cultural Programming, shared a PowerPoint presentation, seeking to clearly articulate the manner in which the College defines diversity, equity, and inclusion, their goals and their direct correlation to student success on the Sandhills Community College campus. Information included the status of programs related to student resources, new legislation, student placement, and accommodations available for ADA needs students. Ms. Ward said that, ultimately, the College needs to ensure we are providing educational opportunities to all whom we serve.

Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting. Ms. Lovell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jimenez presented the Student Government Association (SGA) report. The SGA leadership team put together exam fuel bags for students. The Winter Formal will be held in February, followed by the Spring Fling event on April 24, 2024.

Mr. Caddell thanked everyone for working diligently to schedule and attend the newly restructured committee meetings, citing that the individual committee meetings offer great preparation for the Board of Trustees meetings.

Mr. Carpenter reported for the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Items discussed included the Carthage project, the Convention Visitor Bureau Grant and Timeline, Ball Visitors Center upgrade, and BPAC renovation of the floor and stage rigging. Also discussed was the Active Shooter Drill to be held on December 13, 2023.

Mr. Horne reported for the Finance Committee. He requested a vote for approval of the 2-1 state budget. Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the 2-1 budget. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Horne shared the Financial Report and State and County Bond Funds through October 31, 2023, with no Board action required.

Discussion ensued regarding number of attendees and participation allowed during individual committee meetings. Attorney May noted that these meetings have no attendance limit.

Mr. Evans reported for the Personnel Committee. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the appointment of Emily Aycock, Department Chair/Instructor position in the Nursing department. Mr. Hurst seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Evans presented Personnel Information with no Board action required.

Ms. Alston reported on the recently completed NC Flex Annual Enrollment, as well as the Jet Dental Pop Up participation numbers. She noted that Sandhills Community College will host the ATIXA Title IX training on March 4-7, during Spring Break. Hosting the training will save SCC \$32,500 in training costs.

Mr. Clendenin reported for the Planning Committee. Copies of the College Strategic Plan (CSP), (Year 3) 2023-2024, were mailed to all Board members prior to the board meeting. Mr. Woodward noted that there are actionable strategies missing to improve the areas that seem to be lacking. Ms. Farmer explained that a separate campus-wide outcomes document will be issued in the Spring and will be published on the SCC website that addresses some of Mr. Woodward's concerns. This information includes data which is tracked on an annual basis. Mr. Woodward said that, as a note for moving forward, the words which do not appear in the CSP are "accountable, accountability, citizen, citizenship, constitution, Judeo Christian, patriotic, scholar or scholarly". Mr. Clendenin made a motion to approve the CSP. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a vote of 12-1.

Mr. Woodward asked that it be noted that during the motion to approve the CSP he would vote "No" rather than "Aye".

Ms. Lovell reported for the Educational Programs Committee. Dr. Roush updated with the process for approval to pursue planning of the Elementary Education Preparation Program. This would allow anyone with a current bachelor's degree who is currently allowed to teach in the local school system in an unlicensed status to obtain the certified teaching certificate, which will allow them to continue to teach elementary grades. This program is a replacement of the lateral entry pathway that offered a similar pathway to licensure. The SCC program is planned to begin in Fall 2024.

Ms. Pickett presented the Student Affairs Committee report. Dr. Farmer provided an update on the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), to include a review of the components of the QEP, the role of the Purpose Center, the implementation of Power U, and the role of student navigators. Dr. Farmer also reported that the search continues for an outside marketing consultant to assist in the development of a campus-wide marketing strategic plan.

Ms. Elkins presented the SCC Foundation report. In celebration of the college's 60th anniversary, a free ice cream give-away was held at the Ice Cream Shop in Southern

Pines on December 4th. In addition, SCC was represented in the Southern Pines and Carthage Christmas parades with the entry of a giant 60th anniversary cake float. The Foundation Board met on October 30, 2023 and elected new officers to include J.J. Jackson, Chair, Jon Giles, Vice Chair, Stanley J. Bradshaw, Treasurer, and Linda Branch, Secretary. Audited financial statements were approved following a clean audit. A Scholarship dinner was held on November 16 with 320 students and donors in attendance.

Dr. Stewart presented the President's report. Dr. Stewart distributed copies of a proposed change to Board of Trustees bylaws relating to the appointment of new trustees as mandated by state legislation. The SCC Bylaws need to be modified to reflect the state law change as to how trustee boards are appointed. Mr. Woodward made a motion to propose revising the bylaws according to the new law at the February 2024 Board meeting. Mr. Clendenin seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Hearing no further discussion, the Board agreed to appoint a committee in February.

Dr. Stewart signed two applications to the State Board of Elections that will make Sandhills student and employee IDs acceptable forms of identification and will satisfy the voter NC ID law.

Dr. Stewart recognized the Foundation and various individuals and groups who worked to make Sandhills' 60th birthday celebration a great success. He also recognized Andrew Jimenez for his victory while participating in the Dr. Pepper Challenge, resulting in a \$100,000 scholastic scholarship.

Commercial Drivers License (CDL) and Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) Graduations will be held during the weeks of December 11 & 18, 2023. The U. S. Golf Association (USGA) Apprenticeship Program Graduation will also be held during the week, making it the first graduating class of the program.

An on-campus Active Shooter training exercise will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday, December 13, 2023. Local fire and rescue personnel will participate. Local entities were notified of the exercise prior to the event.

Dr. Stewart continues to work with the President's Association regarding the rollout of a newly proposed funding model. The President's Association will vote on the proposal on Wednesday, December 13, and the State Board's Finance Committee will vote on January 18, 2024.

Dr. Stewart recognized the retirement of Jim and Johanna Westmen, long-time professors in the Landscape Gardening department.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Caddell, Chairman of the Board

Joseph Clendenin, Secretary of the Board