

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**James A. Leach Aquatic & Recreation Center
February 5, 2024, 9:00 a.m.**

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

ABSENT: Joe Clendenin

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

GUESTS: Hoke County Commissioners Allen Thomas & James A. Leach; Hobbs Architects Taylor Hobbs, Troy Olson & Chevon Moore; USGA (United States Golf Association) Representatives Dr. Jordan Booth & Dr. Carson Letot

Mr. Caddell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.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. Caddell proceeded to the next item of business.

Mr. Hurst offered a moment of prayer.

The General Assembly recently changed by-laws regarding how appointments are made within the community college Board of Trustees. Dr. Stewart reviewed two options for revising the SCC BOT by-laws. Attorney May reviewed both options and agreed both options accomplish the same purpose. Discussion ensued as comparisons were made between the two plans. Mr. Carpenter made a motion to accept Option 2 which references the statute and then provides public information on the website as to how trustees are appointed. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sheets administered the Oath of Office to Anthony Hunt from Hoke County for appointment to the Sandhills Community College Board of Trustees.

Mr. Evans made a motion to change the April 1, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting to April 8, 2024. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jordan Booth and Dr. Carson Letot, with the USGA, presented information regarding the new Greenskeeper Apprenticeship Program at SCC. The USGA needs skilled, credentialed, experienced workers to become involved in the world of golf. The USGA Greenskeeper Apprenticeship Program is a unique, credential-based program for training greenskeepers. Drs. Booth and Letot reviewed classes, graduation numbers, and plans for moving forward. The team will work to increase recruiting efforts, incorporate the addition of hybrid options, and place an expanded footprint in professional associations including academic and industry-focused dissemination points.

Mr. Jimenez presented the Student Government Association (SGA) report. A suggestion box has been installed on campus which will enable students to submit their ideas and opinions confidentially. SGA will share candy-grams for Valentine's Day which will be delivered to classrooms. On February 15, at 6 p.m., in the McPherson Theater, Mr. Jimenez will be the guest speaker for the soft launch of a mental health initiative. The second annual winter formal for students will be held on the SCC campus on Feb 16. As part of a fundraising effort, on February 17, Mr. Jimenez will challenge Dr. Stewart on the Heinz Gym court during halftime at the Flyers basketball game.

Mr. Carpenter reported for the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Future use of the now-vacant president's residence was discussed. Mr. Garner will solicit quotes for the flooring in the basement of the residence and will address other minor repairs. Dr. Roush presented a review of the Early Childhood program that is now in place. Further discussion ensued regarding use of the residence for an early childhood development center. Mr. Carpenter suggested an analysis of the possible uses of the president's house by the Buildings and Grounds committee.

Other items discussed included the Meyer Hall Project, which will begin in early summer, and was awarded to Moseley Architects. Only one vendor was present at the pre-bid meeting for work at Causey Hall. A second meeting is scheduled for February 8. Mr. Garner reported the sterilization processing room in Foundation Hall will be complete in March. Bids will go out by mid-February for the tract review of the fire training classroom in Carthage, and the scope of work needed.

Mr. Horne reported for the Finance Committee. Mr. Horne made a motion for approval of student fees for 2024-2025. Ms. Probst Mills seconded the motion. Dr. Roush offered information to assist in a better understanding of student fees. Dr. Roush emphasized that it has

always been a goal of the college to develop a cost-effective plan in which to minimize the burden of student fees. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caddell spoke on the importance of structured committees within the Board, enabling individuals to request information from the correct source. Mr. Caddell believes that the time and open discussions shared during the committee meetings will accomplish a great deal and will enhance the time spent in the Board of Trustees meetings.

Mr. Horne reviewed the Financial Report and State and County Bond Funds through December 31, 2023, with no Board action required.

Mr. Evans reported for the Personnel Committee. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the appointment of Chris White as a Landscape Gardening instructor. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Alston reported a new hire welcome event will be held on March 28, 2024, from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. at the Rec Room Arcade in Southern Pines. Title IX training is scheduled to be held on the SCC campus March 4-7. At present, there is a 66% enrollment rate, with thirteen colleges participating. Training will take place in Foundation Hall. The newly formed NC Community College Association of Human Resources Professionals has established a constitution and by-laws. Voting for executive positions is currently in progress and SCC will have membership.

In Mr. Clendenin's absence, Mr. Caddell reported the Planning Committee had not met and had no information to contribute.

Ms. Lovell reported for the Educational Programs Committee. Dr. Roush gave updates on the launch of a new version of the SCC website in terms of Programs and Pathways for students. This includes sixteen career clusters where the user-friendly layout gives options for short and long-term pathways of study.

Ms. Probst Mills presented the Student Affairs Committee report and called on Dr. Farmer to share information regarding enrollment and retention status. Dr. Farmer reported that enrollment trends are up for Spring 2024. Additionally, comparing the August 1 to September 30, 2023, timeframe to the same timeframe in 2022, the persistence/retention rate increased from 66% to 81% for new students enrolling in fall and persisting to the spring semester. This, in part, may indicate success with the new onboarding and navigator student engagement model. Dr. Farmer believes the new model has contributed greatly to the increased persistence/retention and, consequently, has positively impacted enrollment. Dr. Farmer also provided an overview of the mental health services offered by the college's Counseling Center. SCC has a licensed counselor in the on-site Counseling Center. The counselor reports the primary reason for visits from students is anxiety related.

Ms. Elkins presented the SCC Foundation report. Ms. Elkins distributed to all Board members the Annual Sandhills Community College Foundation Report. Ms. Elkins noted that the Foundation is grounded in two of the college's core values – opportunity and excellence. Details of financial aid dollars provided by the Foundation were summarized. Culinary lunch dates were provided as well. Discussion ensued regarding the guarantor program.

Mr. Hurst offered a blessing before the lunch break.

Hobbs Architects Taylor Hobbs, Troy Olson, and Chevon Moore reported on the development of the master facilities plan for the Hoke Campus. Dr. McKnight shared information regarding programming and referenced the increase in jobs within the healthcare field as well as for advanced manufacturing as guiding elements in that plan.

Dr. Stewart presented the President's report. Dr. Stewart complimented the support of Jon Giles and his continuous efforts to enrich the lives of SCC students. There will be a Jon Giles Leadership Academy luncheon on April 11, in the Clement dining room.

Dr. Stewart shared a PowerPoint presentation centered around college statistics. The new SCC Website re-design shows information built around sixteen career clusters. The Moore County Early College High School will be a combination of credential and AAS degrees. Dr. Stewart presented external change factors for SCC to include the growing population and demand for skilled workforce and the tremendous external investment in North Carolina. The one-college approach is defined as a fully integrated approach to instruction and community engagement for student success.

Dr. Stewart presented an update on Propel NC, which is a proposed funding model for community colleges in North Carolina. Propel builds on recent legislative investments, targets funding for job training/continuing education, and strengthens rural communities.

Ms. Farmer shared information regarding the new College Strategic Plan (CSP). The CSP will move in the direction of the One-College approach. The current plan will end this year in October. The first step in the new CSP is to engage community stakeholders. Twelve community forums are planned for Moore County and two forums in Hoke County. Videographer Brandi Swarms has created a video reviewing the new plan. After feedback from the community is received, plans are to move forward to create goals and objectives.

Dr. Roush shared information regarding the Moore County Cooperative Innovative High School. The new high school will expand opportunities for success through high-quality instructional programming. Students will earn their high school diploma and/or training certificate. There will be a North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) application process. Moore County Schools and SCC are meeting regularly to make recommendations for the program as it moves forward. Potential growth lies in trades and technical programs.

Dr. Stewart announced that Andrew Jimenez is this year's NC Community College winner of the Academic Excellence Award.

On a motion by Mr. Horne and seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. No action was taken by the Board when it reconvened into regular session after the conclusion of the Executive Session.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Caddell, Chairman of the Board

Joseph Clendenin, Secretary of the Board