

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Hoke Center, Raeford, N.C.

Johnson Hall 107/108

April 8, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Trustees Larry Caddell, Chairman; Tim Carpenter, Vice Chairman; Joseph Clendenin, Secretary; Bruce Hurst; Tony Hunt; Gary Evans; Irish Pickett; Billy Carter; BethAnn Pratte; Stephen Woodward; Helen Probst Mills; David McLean; Haden Barnett, SGA Vice President

ABSENT: Dell Cook, Gene Horne

STAFF: Dr. Sandy Stewart; Mary Bridschge; Dr. Rebecca Roush; Dr. Julie Voigt; Dr. D.J. Farmer; Dr. Germaine Elkins; Michelle Bauer; Steven Garner; Lindsey Farmer; David Daniels; Chad Williams; Karen Walker; Tess Regan; Teresa Sheets, Jennifer Pearce; Rosa McAllister McRae; Dr. Carlos McCormick; Kelly Peele; Diane Reynolds

GUESTS: John May, Robbins May & Rich; Matt Lamb, The Pilot Newspaper; Katherine Peele, LS3P Architects

Mr. Caddell 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. Caddell proceeded to the next item of business.

Mr. Hurst offered a moment of prayer.

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

Mr. McLean made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

David Daniels, Coordinator of Veterans Services, presented information and updates as related to the Sandhills Community College Veterans Center Program. Mr. Daniels said that the Veterans Services Program which began in 2023, has developed more offerings and options for those former and active-duty military individuals. Mr. Daniels introduced former military students Rachel Hanson, Roland Pearson, Steve Warren, and Celina Gonzalez, who shared their experiences as those who are currently receiving assistance from the Veterans Program. The students praised Mr. Daniels and his staff for the consistent concern and guidance they continue to receive.

Mr. Barnett presented the Student Government Association (SGA) Report.

Nicholas Watts is a new member of SGA and will be running for SGA President for the 2025-2026 term. Elections will be held on April 16, 2025, during Spring Fling. Mr. Barnett has been working with Wake Technical Community College President, Silas Johnson, to draft a motion which will recognize first generation graduates with the awarding of a graduation cord. A new full-time Student Life assistant is now in place. Mr. Barnett thanked the Board of Trustees for allowing him to serve with them during his term as SGA President.

Dr. Stewart noted that the revision of SCC Bylaws was sent to the Board 30 days prior to the February meeting. Mr. Caddell asked for a motion to approve the SCC Bylaws that were sent to the trustees in January. Mr. Carter made a motion to approve current SCC Bylaws. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McLean made a motion for provisional policy 1.3, which would be aligned with the by-laws, to be applied. Mr. Hunt seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Final policy will be addressed during the June 2025, Board of Trustees meeting.

Ms. Katherine Peele, Chief Practice Officer, LS3P Architects, was on hand to present the Summary Report Advance Planning Study of the Sandhills Community College and Moore County Schools (MCS) Early College High School and Workforce Building plans. Ms. Peele's presentation included the NC State Construction Office Requirements for Advance Planning, Process and Timelines, the SCC/MCS Building Committee members, as well as multiple images depicting square footage, topographic views, and building layouts. Discussion ensued regarding images of preferred and alternate concepts of buildings, walkways, and parking lots. A preliminary project budget and schedule was reviewed. Dr. Roush was asked to explain the scheduling and utilization of Van Dusen as the current location for Moore County Innovative High School classes.

Mr. Carpenter reported for the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

- Hot Water Loop Replacement Project – The fountain located at Blue Hall has begun to leak. As a result of the bidding process, Mechanical Maintenance has been awarded the contract and will begin work the week following graduation. Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve the Hot Water Loop Replacement Project at a cost of \$500,101. Mr. Carter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Bookstore Renovation – Dr. Farmer said that the space for the former bookstore will be upfitted to a student engagement space. Uses will include academic advising, dual enrollment advising, and a flex space to bring employers and university representatives together to work with students. The space will also potentially be used to display and sell SCC spirit wear. A conceptual drawing has been received, but no costs have been verified. Funding options are being explored.

- Caddell Center Classroom Building – Hobbs Architects is working to provide information regarding construction, permitting, and timelines.

Dr. Farmer presented the Finance Committee Report. Dr. Farmer reviewed the Financial Report and State and County Bond Funds through February 28, 2025, with no Board action required. Dr. Farmer also reviewed State, Moore County, and Hoke County budget information, requiring no Board action.

Mr. Evans reported for the Personnel Committee. Mr. Evans asked for a motion to hire a new instructor. Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve the appointment of Demi Watkins, Engineering/Geomatics Instructor. Mr. McLean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Woodward requested an audit of the SCC website.

Dr. Voigt presented policies for Board review. The policies will be considered for approval at the June Board of Trustees meeting.

Mr. Clendenin reported that the Planning Committee had no items requiring approval and no updates.

Ms. Pickett called on Dr. Roush to report for the Educational Programs Committee. Dr. Roush made a request to close the Digital Media Program due to low enrollment. Dr. Roush said that the components of the program can be offered through Continuing Education. Ms. Pickett made a motion to close the Digital Media Program. Ms. Pratte seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Trustees received in their Board packet a Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) Accountability Report. Dr. Roush offered information as it relates to compliance with State Board code rules and regulations that a decision was made to welcome not only Curriculum students to the Tutoring Center, but to offer WCE students tutoring resources as well.

Ms. Probst Mills called on Mr. Williams to report for the Student Affairs Committee. Mr. Williams shared an enrollment update. Spring 2025 headcount for curriculum is up about 5% and FTE is up about 6%. WCE numbers continue to climb as students register for the coming months. The unduplicated headcount is approximately 11,000 students. Registration events are planned for both the Pinehurst and Hoke Campuses.

Dr. Elkins presented the SCC Foundation Report. Dr. Elkins called attention to the new banners on the Hoke campus which will also be appearing in downtown Raeford during a local garden club event. The Foundation Report was attached to the meeting agenda. As of March 31, total fundraising for the fiscal year was just over \$2.7M. Estate funds of \$200,000 will go to the

Guarantors Program. The spring Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for April 28, at the Caddell Public Safety Center. Board members will have an opportunity to view the renderings of the new building and will also look at the Fire Program. Updates on the capital campaign were included in the Foundation report.

Dr. Stewart gave the President's Report to include the following bullet points:

- Dr. Stewart thanked Diane Reynolds, Kelly Peele, and other Hoke Campus personnel for helping with the planning of the Board of Trustees meeting. He also thanked Trustee Tony Hunt, who also serves as a Hoke County Commissioner, for his support of the Hoke Campus. Dr. Stewart conveyed that he is working towards establishing a greater presence on the Hoke Campus. As plans continue to develop a Cooperative Innovative High School on the Pinehurst Campus, Dr. Stewart noted that a highly successful Early College High School was established years ago in Hoke County and continues to be a successful educational entity.
- Dr. Carlos McCormick, Customized Training Director, has played a significant role in working with Pennsylvania Transformer Technology located in Raeford, N.C. On Thursday, April 10, SCC will sign a 3-year contract with Spiritus Systems in Aberdeen, N.C. Spiritus employs over 100 people. The company produces tactical nylon equipment for the military. Spiritus will conduct customized training that will affect over 100 employees.
- On Friday, April 4, the SCC Campus hosted Funfest. Over 800 students participated in competitions including automotive, computer programming, and engineering.
- UNC Charlotte Chancellor Saron Gaber was on campus to sign a transfer agreement marking a guaranteed admission program. At present, SCC has five guaranteed admission program partners.
- Community College Day was held on March 19, 2025, in Raleigh. Dr. Stewart thanked Trustees Stephen Woodward and David McLean for attending the event. The Community College System conducted their Awards Program on April 3, and the SCC Choir was asked to perform at the event.
- Regarding legislative issues, 16 various bills that directly affect community colleges and 11 additional bills that indirectly affect them are being tracked. Crossover is on May 8, 2025, at which time a bill that is filed in the House has until May 8, to cross all hurdles to be moved to the Senate and vice versa. Dr. Stewart will share updates as they are made available. Dr. Stewart will serve as the North Carolina Community College President's Association Legislative Chair for the coming year.

- Chairman Caddell will serve on the NCCC Trustee Association Board of Directors, filling the unexpired term of George Little.

Mr. Clendenin made a motion to go into closed session. Ms. Probst Mills seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 7:18 p.m.

Minutes
of
April 8, 2025
Board of Trustees of Sandhills Community College
Executive Session Meeting
Held on the Hoke Campus

The Board of Trustees of Sandhills Community College met on April 8, 2025, on Sandhills Community College's Hoke County Campus in Raeford, North Carolina. At the conclusion, the Board's regular session and prior to adjournment, on motion by Joe Clendenin and seconded by Tim Carpenter the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss personal and legal issues.

Dr. Stewart advised the Board of several employment positions in the College's administrative staff which have or will, in the near future, be open and his intentions with respect to identifying candidates for those vacant positions. Dr. Stewart also advised the Board of two recent security related incidences which occurred on the College's campus and are under investigation neither of which appear they will develop into legal issues involving the College.

Pursuant to State law, in Dr. Stewart's absence, the Board was provided with a copy of Dr. Stewart's current employment contract incident to the Board's annual review of the Dr. Stewart performance as President of the College.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:00 pm, and the Board reconvened its regular meeting. On motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hunt, the Board voted unanimously to extend the term of Dr. Stewart's Employment Contract, which currently will expire on June 30, 2026, for an additional three (3) years with the new expiration date of June 30, 2029. Any action with respect to Dr. Stewart's compensation would be acted on by the Board at a future meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

John M. May, Attorney for SCC
April 8, 2025

With no further business, the Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Caddell, Chairman of the Board

Joseph Clendenin, Secretary of the Board