

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

**Forest Creek Golf Club  
April 13, 2021, 1:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Trustees George Little, Chairman; Larry Caddell, Vice Chairman; Joe Clendenin, Secretary; Gary Evans; Tim Carpenter; Helen Probst Mills; Gene Horne; Dr. Sandy Stewart; Connie Lovell; Vincent Gordon; Megan Ramsey, SGA President

**STAFF:** Dr. John Dempsey; Brenda Jackson; Heather Lyons; Kellie Shoemake; Ron Layne; Dr. Rebecca Roush; Dr. Lynne Phifer; Ed Spitler; Lindsey Farmer

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Mary Kate Murphy; Josh Barnes; Gina Paulk

Mr. Little welcomed everyone to the retreat which began at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Dempsey called on Ms. Shoemake to present information regarding a new health care plan for the students of Sandhills Community College (SCC). Ms. Shoemake stated that although most typical 18-to-20-year-old students are in good health, it is difficult for them to find a cost wise health care plan. Ms. Shoemake introduced representatives Josh Barnes and Gina Paulk from FirstHealth of the Carolinas. Mr. Barnes and Ms. Paulk presented details of the \$10.00 per month On-the-Go Telehealth plan soon to be offered by FirstHealth to SCC students. Ms. Shoemake reported that approximately 2,800 students would be eligible for the new insurance offering. A question and answer segment followed the presentation.

Dr. Roush introduced Dr. Lynne Phifer, Chair of Nursing, to speak concerning the Associate in Applied Science programs. Dr. Phifer emphasized the efforts within the nursing program to help students as they enter the program until the time of graduation, citing retention measures as a priority within the program. Dr. Phifer also offered information regarding processes in the program during the time of the pandemic. The nursing program received an accreditation from the National League of Nursing in February of 2021. Dr. Phifer commented that the new Health Sciences building will increase laboratory space by 50% and that the program is poised for growth due to the offerings of additional space and equipment in the new facility.

Ed Spitler, Department Chair of Engineering, Computers, and Construction Technologies presented information regarding each program. Students have the flexibility to migrate from one vocation to another without time lost in previous semesters. Landscape Gardening and Golf Course Management are two separate programs but have much commonality. The two programs were redesigned in 2020 and were relaunched. Beginning next fall, a Computer Engineering Technologies program and an I.T. Professionals program will be offered. The two programs have a similar first year curriculum which can lead to multiple career choices such as networking, I.T.

support, security, programming, digital media, or simulation gaming. The programs were redesigned to help with a better retention rate and to provide more opportunities.

Mr. Spittler also reported that plans are in order to add engineering programs at the Hoke County campus in spring 2022. Construction Management and Building Construction Technologies programs are also being considered as additions at the Pinehurst campus.

Ms. Elkins presented the Foundation Report. Ms. Elkins offered praise to Dr. Phifer and Mr. Spittler for the excellent job they continue to do in support of their programs. Ms. Elkins reviewed the information within the Foundation Report, noting key points to include the opportunity support which is the amount given directly to students in scholarships and grants, the annual golf tournament, and annual awards programs. Also included in the report was a supplemental page of information with Foundation comparisons from eight community colleges within the state. SCC continues to fundraise and give back to the College in the way of support annually more than any other community college in the comparison. Ms. Elkins stated the report shows the strength of our relationship with the community, how well respected we are as a college, and how generous our community is in our efforts to grow the College.

Mr. Little called the board meeting to order at 2:00 pm. 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. Little asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Little asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Clendenin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caddell presented the Buildings and Grounds report. Mr. Caddell reported on Foundation Hall and on the ratification of the voice poll that was sent to Board members regarding the contractor to be awarded the project. Ms. Jackson reported there were 12 bidders who submitted bids for the Foundation Hall contract. Bordeaux Construction Company, Inc., was the low bidder. Our architectural firm, LSP3, has had favorable experiences with Bordeaux and recommended them to be the chosen contractor. The State Board of Construction approved the contract last week. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for next week. Mr. Caddell made a motion to ratify the voice poll sent to Board members regarding the selection of Bordeaux Construction Company, Inc. The motion was seconded by Ms. Probst Mills, and the motion passed unanimously.

Board members received a copy of the Master Facilities Plan. Mr. Caddell reported that a list of 10 items was submitted to the Moore County Manager's office regarding improvements and upgrades at the College. Renovations need to be made to Stone Hall and Meyer Hall. Repairing water issues are included on the list as well. Mr. Clendenin requested that acreage at Hoke

County be added to the report to show the newly acquired property. Mr. Clendenin also asked that a statement be added to explain the COVID-19 information. Discussion ensued regarding the frequency of submitting a Master Facilities Plan and the information within the document. Mr. Carpenter shared his knowledge of various Master Facilities Plans that he has been privy to during his career. He stated that an architectural design document is important to have to ensure the continuation of campus styles and designs. Ms. Jackson stated that she and the facilities staff would prepare such a document. Mr. Caddell made a motion to approve the Master Facilities Plan as amended. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caddell shared that he, Ms. Jackson, Dr. Dempsey, and Mr. Little met with the Moore County Commissioners via Zoom and made several requests. One request was that the \$2.1m premium be available to the College for SCC use. Following discussions with Wayne Vest, County Manager, it was decided that the premium could be used for the campus water project and the Meyer Hall lab renovation project. Mr. Caddell made a motion to submit a request to Moore County Commissioners for approval of \$2.1m premium to be used for the water project and Meyer Hall lab renovations. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that the building at the Larry Caddell Center in Carthage is nearing completion.

Ms. Jackson reported that the College has closed on the purchase of 4.13 acres of land located next to the Hoke Center at a cost of \$198,240. The purchase will allow SCC to do some additional expansion. There will be a dedication in May, which will include a new piece of sculpture in front of the campus in honor of Dr. Mary Kemp Thomas.

Ms. Jackson gave an update on the Moore County Funding Formula. Moore County Commissioners and staff approved the operating formula to remain the same at 5.33% of budgeted property and sales tax. There is \$571,886 available to the College for decline in debt service and \$130,641 available in unassigned fund balance. Ms. Jackson reported that she would formally request those funds for College use. Since new bonds have been issued for \$20m and need to be repaid, there will be no annual capital provision after these funds are recovered. Ms. Jackson summarized that the College should be on good financial footing for the next few years. However, in preparation for the 2024 property evaluation, the formula should be revisited.

Mr. Horne presented the Finance Committee Report. Mr. Horne reviewed the Financial Reports and State and County Bond Funds through March 31, 2021, with no action required. Mr. Horne said that there was a second budget call back of \$137,831 that occurred in March 2021. Total call backs for this fiscal year to date amount to \$396,263. Ms. Jackson stated that this is around 2% of the College budget, due in part to COVID-19 and the resulting decline in FTE. Mr. Horne reported that the annual Foundation audit and the bi-annual College audit have been completed, both resulting in clean opinions with no findings. Ms. Libba Thomas, Chief Financial Officer, was acknowledged for her efforts.

Ms. Ramsey reported for the Student Government Association (SGA). Ms. Ramsey reviewed past and future student events including Painting in the Pines and a Food Truck Rodeo. Ms. Ramsey stated that the goal of the SGA has been to meet students where they are and to supply them with the knowledge and tools needed to succeed in their endeavors.

Mr. Evans reported for the Personnel Committee. Mr. Evans presented Personnel Information requiring no Board action. Mr. Evans confirmed the names of those receiving 2021-2022 Faculty and Staff Educational Learning Opportunities. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve all Faculty and Staff Educational Learning Opportunities as presented. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clendenin submitted that the Planning Committee has not met and does not have a report to submit at this time. Mr. Clendenin asked Mr. Layne to discuss the SCC Flyers basketball team and their upcoming tournament schedule. Mr. Layne shared that the games will be live-streamed in the Clement dining room. Mr. Layne also praised the coaches and players for keeping academics a priority during this time.

Ms. Shoemake reported for the Student Affairs Committee. In partnership with Dr. Roush, two new student support programs will be launched. "Finish First" is a completion program which allows colleges to track the percentages of the completion of students. The program was developed by Wake Tech and they have agreed to share the software program with other colleges. It will help track the student completion rate. The second program will enable the College to track those students who have completed at least 75% of the program. This information is shared with advisers so that they can share with their advisees, which provides encouragement to the student. Two additional phases will be implemented in Student Services. One program will assist those students who were close to completion of their program but had to stop their educational journey for various reasons. One-on-one help will be available to those students to help encourage them to return to school. Help will also be available to those students who have pursued an Associate in General Education degree to enable them to complete their studies.

Dr. Stewart called on Dr. Roush to present information on behalf of the Educational Programs Committee. On behalf of Mrs. Andi Korte, Dr. Roush asked everyone to refer to the Continuing Education Accountability and Integrity Plan Report included in their packet. The information reflects some of the standards, measures, and outcomes for three areas in Continuing Education and Workforce Development. Dr. Roush asked that the minutes reflect that the 2020 Accountability and Integrity Plan Report was reviewed by the Board and included in the division's 2020 Class Visitation Outlook report. Dr. Roush also reported that approval has been received to pursue the CT Scan Certificate, which will be implemented in fall 2022. The Management and Businesses Technology department has developed certificates that are being termed "employability" certificates, to include four to five courses which can be completed in one or one-and-one half semesters that will lead to an industry credential. Also, being piloted are eight-week general education courses in the fall semester. Lastly, the College will offer

Associate of Arts and Associate of Science in Teacher Preparation degrees beginning in the fall of 2021.

Dr. Dempsey asked for thoughts and prayers in remembrance of Thomas Partridge and his family. Graduation will be held on May 15, 2021 with outdoor ceremonies at 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Students will be allowed two guest tickets. An honorary degree will be presented to Ms. Cynthia McDonald during the 8:30 commencement. Dr. Dempsey asked for approval to present honorary degrees to Stan Bradshaw and Emmett Logan during the 11:30 commencement. Mr. Horne made a motion to approve the honorary degrees to Stan Bradshaw and Emmett Logan. Mr. Clendenin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Dr. Dempsey reviewed spending of the COVID-19 relief package awarded to the College. Discussion ensued regarding student retention and plans to increase future graduation rates.

Mr. Little asked if there was any further business. Mr. Evans made a motion to craft a document of resolution citing the recent awards bestowed upon SCC as the second most beautiful community college campus and the second safest community college campus. Mr. Horne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 3:49 pm.

The Board reconvened at 4:22 pm.

With no further business, the meeting concluded at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George Little, Chairman of the Board

Joseph Clendenin, Secretary of the Board