



## Board of Trustees Meeting

June 1, 2023

Minutes

### **Call to Order**

Chair Stephanie Johnson called the June 1, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

### **Invocation**

The invocation was rendered by ECSU Vice Chancellor Gary Brown.

### **Roll Call**

Trustee Christine Evans conducted roll call. Trustees present included Jay'quahn Blackledge (virtual), James Copland, Andy Culpepper, Christine Evans, Stephen Friedrich, Stephanie Johnson, Tiffany Jones (virtual), Jan King Robinson, Johnny Tillett, Paul Tine, and Justin Waddell.

### **Remarks from Board Chair**

Chair Johnson first acknowledged and thanked those board members (Culpepper, Brown, and Robinson) whose term will end June 30<sup>th</sup>. She also thanked Chancellor Dixon and her leadership team for their continued service. The Nominating Committee will be led by Trustee Copland and the members are Trustees Evans and Waddell.

### **State Government Ethics Act**

Chair Stephanie Johnson read the State Government Ethics Act. No one mentioned a conflict of interest based on the materials received.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made and seconded (Tillett/Tine) to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2023, Board meeting. Motion passed.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion was made and seconded (Tine/Tillett) to approve the consent agenda which included Audit Plan FY 23-24 and the 2023 Promotion, Tenure and Reappointment Summary. Motion passed.

## **Committee on Academic Excellence and Strategic Growth**

Trustee Tiffany Jones shared the following updates. Dr. Ward provided information on ECSU's 9 Distinguished Professorships, including challenges filling four current vacancies. She indicated that ECSU has received approval from the Spangler Foundation to modify several of the professorships which should assist in filling the vacancies. In addition, Dr. Ward stated that ECSU is seeking \$2 million from the Distinguished Professor Endowment Trust Fund to increase the corpus on 8 professorships from \$500,000 to \$1 million which will significantly increase the available funds that can be used for those professorships. Dr. Ward also provided an overview of the work being done surrounding teacher preparation in literacy. She shared information on how the external organization Teacher Prep Inspection-US (TPI-US), rated ECSU's teacher preparation program, along with 8 other UNC System institutions', as needing improvement surrounding the teaching of literacy. Dr. Ward provided information on the action steps being taken to address TPI-US findings and ongoing modifications that will be made to the teacher education program. Dr. Ward shared several accomplishments from Goal 1: Academic Excellence of the strategic plan including a video on how students are engaging in applied research, a faculty appreciation event, and expanded partnerships for ECSU's aviation program. Mr. Moreno shared fall 2023 enrollment data, which showed increases in applications, admitted students, and confirmations for both first year and transfer students. Applications and confirmations are down for returning students.

## **Committee on Student Excellence**

Trustee Johnny Tillett indicated that during the Committee on Student Excellence, informational updates were received from Vice Chancellor of 'Student Affairs & University Advancement, Dr. Gary Brown, special guest (Dr. Bethany Meighen, Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs, UNC System Office) Athletics Director, Mr. James DuBose, Jr. and Student Government Association President, Mr. Jay'quahn Blackledge.

### **Dr. Gary Brown introduced Dr. Meighen from the UNC System Office to present on the Statewide Behavioral Health Initiatives**

Dr. Meighen presented statewide initiatives to include Healthy Minds, Strong Universities, 8 overarching recommendations, identified highest priorities to address most immediately, and grant funding from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief fund. Discussed current behavioral health initiatives, to include online office campus referral network, shared telepsychiatry pilot, after hours mental health care, office campus micro grants, peer support platform, healthy minds study, mental health first aid and behavioral health capacity building grants. She spoke about the trends related to "stopping out" across the system and the results of the survey related to why students are stopping out. Upcoming behavioral health initiatives includes, JED Foundation, Case Management support, QPR Training, Resilience, Mental Health and Wellbeing grants, resilience training program, empathic communication training and the Hilinski's Hope Student Athletic mental health modules. New initiatives launching in Fall 2023, It Matters Pilot program to promote building student resilience.

### **Mr. James DuBose, Jr.**

Announced the Big House Gaines Awards, June 26, 2023, in Winston-Salem, NC, National Sports Media Association, names Coach Tynesha Lewis as the Clarence "Big House" Gaines Division 2 College Basketball Coach of the Year. LaTaya Hilliard Gray was announced as 2022-23 CIAA Senior Women Administrator of the Year; Highlighted that 20 student athletes were inducted into

the inaugural class of Chi Alpha Sigma National College Athlete Honor Society. NCAA Division II Compliance Blueprint review, April 25-26, which provided many strengths of the athletic dept. and provide insight for areas in which can be stronger. Strategic Plan goal 2.5: Build a competitive athletic program that develops our student athletes into well rounded leaders as well as brings recognition and pride to the university; 2023 Initiatives, Academic achievement, athletic success, facility enhancements and fundraising. AD DuBose, also highlighted the Athletics Economic Impact Study with \$7 million economic impact and 60 jobs that has been supported (report highlighted both statewide and local economic impact)

### **Mr. Jay'quahn Blackledge**

SGA president introduced himself, Washington, NC native, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 6 children, rising senior and loves advocating for students on our campus. Introduced his new cabinet and will invite them to attend the next BOT meeting in the Fall. He is excited about serving.

**Dr. Gary L. Brown** provided a brief overview of new staff joining the division, highlighting behavioral and Mental health initiatives during the semester to include the number of students served (410), areas of counseling; the NC STeP initiative and growth in the number of students served; Success of the two student athletic coaches through the Viking Victory program and training and workshops that has been provided for students. Highlighted other behavioral health initiatives, such as weekly stressless groups, alcohol and substance use prevention training and bi-weekly yoga nights. Discussed the CARES Team and its reorganization to include the hiring of a Director of Communal Engagement. Special programming to include Terrence J (It Takes a Village); Every Brilliant Thing sponsored by Sentara and the Virginia Stage Company; and a DEI initiative Empower Men Health and Healing Summit. Resource development for Mental Health and Wellness Initiatives, \$678,670 YTD. 2020-25 Strategic Plan Updates 2.1.1, Impact study, 2.1.3 enhance leadership quality and competitiveness, clubs, and orgs, 2.3.4, sustainable and reliable transportation, 2.6.1, Descriptor of ECSU culture, and 2.7.2, ensure that students services reflect the diversity that exist among ECSU population.

### **Committee on Operational Excellence**

Trustee Jan King Robinson reported on the following:

#### **Infrastructure Update**

VC Goodson provided an update and the steps that were completed with the new Residence & Dining Hall project. Next steps on the project included State Construction Office approval and the impending groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for the fall. The Infrastructure Project is underway with the pre-purchase of equipment and advanced planning completed, while the Schematic Design and Design Development is in progress currently. With regards to the Emergency Generator Project, VC Goodson updated the Board on the completion of the electrical load study as well as the design for an independent building, all that's needed is the approval of emergency generator layout by State Construction Office. The Campus Lockdown Project Phase I is completed as well as the locking system study, and Phase II includes the approval of a designer. Lastly, VC Goodson updated the board on the project scope for the HVAC system at Viking Village. He alerted members the

project will happen in increments of 25% of the building will not be occupied so work can be completed) and the students being impacted will be housed at a hotel and MACU has agreed to assist in lodging students while these phases take place. As one part of the building is completed, students will move into completed sections so the next part can be completed. This project will take a year to complete.

### **Information Technology Updates**

Mr. Jamar Jones, CIO reported on the goals and objectives for the Division of Information Technology. The top initiatives in supporting the university are business support, IT excellence and innovation. He explained how these objectives and goals will improve the future of the university.

### **Communications and Marketing Update**

Associate VC Ayana Hernandez reported to the board the ways communications and marketing are increasing visibility and promoting success through social media, the website and the university's radio and TV station. In addition, she introduced the new Director of External Group Relations, Ms. Leha Byrd who started April 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Byrd's wealth of experience comes from a university background and is a great addition to the team. It was reported that the May launch of the new website has been reviewed by the executive cabinet and the digital catalog has been approved by registrar. Lastly, the goal to tell "our story" through media outlets has seen spikes of increase, from commencement highlights to student profiles. All media outlets have had significant views from the live stream of significant events on campus.

### **Committee on Finance, Audit and University Advancement**

Trustee Jim Copland noted the updates from Finance, Internal Audit, and University Advancement. Interim Vice-Chancellor for Business & Finance Robert Thibeault presented informational items only. He reported that General Fund expenditures and revenues as of 3/31/23 were 66.3% of the total budget and 3/31/23 Trust & Auxiliary fund balances were \$19.1 million, with \$15.6 million of these funds being unrestricted. An All-Funds Budget Report and an Endowment Report, both as of 3/31/23, were also provided. The Endowment had an overall fiscal year-to-date net earnings of -.03%.

Chief Audit Officer Sharnita Parker presented one action item and two informational items. The action item was the proposed 2023-2024 Annual Audit Plan. The Committee approved this resolution. The informational items were the introduction of Cheryl Sauls as the new Internal Auditor and that after the annual review, no updates are needed to the Internal Audit Charter.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Gary L. Brown presented University Advancement informational items only. He provided the committee with updates on the fundraising progress for FY23, by comparing the current year-to-date totals for "Donors" and "Dollars" with the same year-to-date data from FY22. He reported an increase in the number of donors across all constituent groups. Leadership giving across all boards exceeded 50% with our Board of Trustees achieving 100% participation. Details regarding recent and upcoming engagement strategies and stewardship efforts were also discussed. An update was given to the Committee regarding the final numbers from the 7th Annual Day of Giving. The

goal for the 2023 Day of Giving was \$90,000; and the amount raised was \$153,478, which was \$63,478 over the goal.

He also reported the results of the Raise the Sails: Philanthropy Cord initiative, which received 52 student supporters; and he also gave an update on the FY23 Proposal Pipeline with \$872,105 proposals submitted, \$406,525 Funded, \$177,000 declined, and \$288,580 not yet funded. His report concluded with an update on the merger of the Division of Student Affairs and the Division of University Advancement.

### **Committee on Regional Development**

Trustee Paul Tine reported on information regarding strategic engagements that support the university's regional development goals and objectives.

Information was shared on the Come Fly with Us Reception and the Women's basketball and volleyball teams – the teams were invited to the NC General Assembly by Representative Bill Ward. The HBUC Caucus at the legislature listening session was attended by Vice Chancellor Gary Brown with more than a dozen legislators in attendance.

ECSU is currently working with the US Coast Guard to establish a partnership that extends from NC into the Hampton Roads area. This partnership will be part of a strategic communication messaging campaign specific for the Coast Guard to increase the military affiliated student enrollment. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, ECSU hosted the Department of Information Technology and surrounding community for a regional broadband and digital equity meeting.

The UNC System conducted its Legislative day on May 23 at the NC General Assembly. ESCU was the lead logistical planner.

### **Committee on University Governance**

Chair Stephanie Johnson reported that Vice Chancellor Goodson referenced the HR updates. He informed the committee of two items for action during closed session. Motion was made and seconded to go into closed session to preserve the attorney-client privilege. Motion passed.

### **Chancellor's Report**

Chancellor Karrie Dixon thanked the Trustees for their service. Her report included the following:

- An overview of the 176<sup>th</sup> Commencement
- Class of 2023 Profile
- Review of the Six Key Priorities and a status of the Strategic Plan Goals
  - Student Experience – options for sustainable and reliable student transportation
  - Operational Excellence – Standard Operating Procedures, Customer Service Initiatives and updated and implementation of the campus master plan.
- Chancellor Dixon introduced the Welcome Center initiative which is a one-stop shop for students. She also noted upcoming Ribbon Cutting events. The Legislative Update included items for the House and Senate budgets.

- At this time, Chancellor Dixon acknowledged Board members whose term will end this month. Trustees Robinson and Culpepper were presented with a plaque for their outstanding service. She also noted two new members who will join July 1: Kathryn Holding and Patricia Norman. (a copy of the report is on file).

There being no other business, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gwendolyn Sanders*

Gwendolyn Sanders

Deputy Chief of Staff



## Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees

July 20, 2023

Chair Stephanie Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Roll Call was conducted. Trustees present included: James Copland, Chris Evans, Stephen Friedrich, Kathryn Holding, Stephanie Johnson, Patricia Norman, Johnny Tillet, Paul Tine, Justin Waddell, and Phyllis Bosomworth.

Trustee Evans made a motion to go into closed session. Motion was seconded by Trustee Waddell. Motion passed.

Motion was made and seconded to go back into open session. Motion passed.

During the open session, Chancellor Dixon announced the upcoming Ribbon Cutting ceremony and that future dates for other ceremonies are forthcoming. Trustee Copland asked that the trustees watch their email from the Nominating committee.

There being no further business and without objection, the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Gwendolyn Sanders

Deputy Chief of Staff