



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 9, 2021  
Virtual  
Minutes**

**Call to Order**

Chair Janis King Robinson called the March Board of Trustees meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Invocation**

Trustee Kennis Wilkins rendered the invocation.

Chair Robinson then welcomed Governor Powers and thanked him for joining the Board meeting. Governor Powers shared greetings on behalf of the UNC Board of Governors and System President Peter Hans.

**Roll Call**

Trustee Stephanie Johnson, Board Secretary, conducted roll call. Members present included Trustees Phyllis Bosomworth, Kim Brown, Lynne Bunch, Andy Culpepper, Jimmy Chambers, Stephanie Johnson, Janis King Robinson, Tracy Swain, Paul Tine and Kennis Wilkins.

**State Government Ethics Act**

Chair Janis King Robinson reminded the Board that the meeting will be conducted pursuant to the new amendments to the Open Meetings Act. She then 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 (Bunch/Tine) to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Board meeting. Roll call vote recorded unanimous approval. Motion passed.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion was made and seconded (Wilkins/Bosomworth) to approve the consent agenda, which included:

1. Approval of selected firm for Rosenwald School and Principal's House Renovation;
2. Approval of selected firm for HVAC Systems Upgrade Project;

3. Men's Head Football and Head Basketball Coach Contracts: One Year Extension;
4. Board of Trustee's Meetings – One day format.

Roll call vote recorded unanimous approval. Motion passed.

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

Trustee Lynne Bunch reported that there were no action items. As information, the committee received an update on the SACSCOC Reaffirmation timeline. The onsite visit will be conducted virtually March 15 – 18, 2021. Provost Ward informed the Board that the Department of Business, Accounting and Sport Management was reaffirmed with AACSB International Accreditation and ECSU is only HBCU with AACSB Accredited Sport Management program. An update was provided regarding the \$1 million COVID-19 Mitigation Grant, testing occurred between October 15 and December 31, 2021 serving 21 counties. A total 596 tests conducted with 52 positive cases. Provost Ward shared the continued ongoing efforts throughout campus regarding COVID-19. Information was shared regarding the various student engagement opportunities held virtually on campus. Currently, certificate program criteria is being reviewed and will be adding at least 2 new certificate programs for the 2021-2022 academic year. The Aviation Science Program has purchased 2 additional aircrafts and received a \$25 million U.S. Coast Guard grant to fund restoration of the airport runway. Dr. Ward advised that ECSU and COA executed bilateral agreements in Business Administration and Social Work programs. Provost Ward provided updates regarding Winter Open House and its success. Additionally, Admissions is continuing recruitment events virtually throughout the spring semester. Enrollment data for Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 was provided and showed increases in both applications and confirmations. Information on ECSU's inclusion in the Common College Black Application was provided regarding the total applications submitted, total completed applications, admitted applications and confirmed applications.

### **Committee on Student Excellence**

Trustee Kim Brown reported on informational updates from the Athletics Department Athletic Director Mr. George Bright, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Dr. Gary Brown, and Student Government Association President, Mr. Jimmy Chambers.

Athletic Director George Bright highlighted the following:

- Two ECSU alums inducted into the CIAA Hall of Fame, Celeste Trahan and Johnnie Walton;
- Student athletes who maintain high GPAs;
- 2021 Softball Schedule;
- Alumni booster information along with specific need to know details.

Vice Chancellor Gary Brown provided an overview to include:

### **Spring 2021 Update:**

- Re-entry process (mandatory pre-screening and negative COVID Results);
- 71% Occupancy Rate (677 on campus residents);
- 26 confirmed COVID cases; opportunity to host a COVID Vaccine Clinic on our campus;
- Engagement opportunities for our students.

### **Strategic Plan Goals:**

- 58 Virtual events held in Fall with 4,960 students participating;
- \$595,953 in grants sought and YTD \$71,000 awarded;
- Engagement of Corporate Connections, Career Conversations and Internship opportunities for our students;
- A Spring Mini Professional Development and Onboarding Conference scheduled for late March;
- Campus Climate Survey has been launched with a total of 537 respondents.

### **Special Initiatives**

- Project GAP and their progress (Golden Leaf Foundation Grant);
- Governor's Crime Commission Grant – Title IX activities and programming;
- Community Connections – Nikki Giovanni Lecture – over 700 Registrants.

SGA President Jimmy Chambers highlighted 2020-21 goals for SGA:

- Trustee and SGA President Chambers Addressed the UNC Board of Governor's on the importance of the Student Activity fee;
- He mentioned that the Fix it ticket is in the final stages of completion;
- UNC ASG Advocacy week was held February 16-19, 2021.

President Chambers highlighted major events during the Spring which included a Town Hall meeting, HBCU SGA Presidents convening, and the upcoming elections for student leaders. He also highlighted the Royal Coronation, crowning Miss Mekayla Stokley as Miss ECSU and Mister Nomar Proctor as Mr. ECSU.

### **Committee on Operational Excellence**

Trustee Kennis Wilkins provided the project updates shared by Vice Chancellor Alyn Goodson. Those updates included:

**800 Ton Chiller** construction is underway to improve the university's cooling system. This upgrade will provide additional cooling to the campus and is to be completed by the end of summer 2021.

**Hurricane Dorian** repairs have begun, and teams were asked to prioritize roof repairs by residence halls and key buildings.

**Bias Hall** has a finishing point dated for the first week in April. A sneak peak of upgrades by way of a slide presentation was given to board members with pictures of the updated corridors to include modern flooring, crown molding, modern lighting, and replacement of windows for longevity.

**GR Little Library**, a Connect Bond project, has been completed. Vice Chancellor Goodson shared pictures of the upgrades.

**Moore Hall**, a Connect Bond project is expected to get beneficial occupancy within the coming weeks.

**The stadium track** upgrade is ongoing.

A new project of **upgrading the Vaughan Center pool area** was introduced with a slide presentation of needed repairs of the pool railing, outdated fan coil unit and replacement of the floors inside locker room and shower area. Projected completion is before the fall semester.

The Committee approved two action items:

- Approval of the selected firm for the HVAC Mechanical System Upgrade renovation: motion made by Trustee Swain and seconded by Trustee Chambers. The roll call vote outcome – all approved.
- Approval of the selected firm for the Rosenwald School and Principal's House renovation: motion was made by Trustee Swain and seconded by Trustee Bosomworth. The roll call vote outcome – all approved.

Chief Information Officer, Suresh Murugan, shared an update on Strategic Initiative #5, Operational Excellence; Develop an IT Governance Committee to prioritize, standardize, consolidate, and oversee technology growth. The Charter framework has been completed and the IT Governance Council members identified.

Michelle Ball, Executive Director for Strategic Communications reported that:

- The Communications and Marketing department is creating a process, procedures, and institutional tool for internal communication.
- It was also reported that an intranet site for employees and students is being developed. This is to be completed by the end of summer.
- Lastly, social media sites have shown significant growth by followers.

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

Trustee Andy Culpepper shared updates from Finance, Internal Audit and University Advancement.

Vice-Chancellor for Business & Finance Lisa McClinton presented informational items only, which were updates on completed audits, the FY21 General Fund and Trust & Auxiliary budgets, COVID funding that ECSU has received, and a financial outlook for the FY22 General Fund budget. General Fund expenditures as of 12/31/20 were favorable at 46.9% of budget and Trust & Auxiliary fund balances are \$27.5 million, with \$15 million of that attributed to the recent \$15 million gift.

Chief Audit Officer Sharnita Parker presented informational items only, which was a summary of completed reports. The two reports completed this quarter were: Financial Aid Operations Follow-up which resulted in no recommendations and Purchasing Process / Accounts Payable Function Follow-up on three findings from the original report. Two of these findings remain unresolved and one partially resolved.

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, Anita Walton, provided the committee with an update on fundraising progress to date, key data points that assist with quality control, relationship building and help eliminate waste, an update on policies and procedures, engagement plans, and upcoming solicitations and stewardship plans. Total dollars received to date are \$1,050,542. This is 75% of the FY 2021 fundraising goal and \$300,000 over where we were at the same time last year. Steady trends for donor participation are reflected across various constituents. Alumni participation has increased. Leadership giving for both the Foundation and Trustee Board giving are at 90% or greater. The support of other individuals, corporations, and foundations is up significantly with the number of supporting foundations nearly double what it was at the same time last year. Recent engagement efforts were reviewed which included evenings with the deans and planning giving presentations, and upcoming plans for the Annual ECSU Foundation Founders Day Scholarship Gala XIV were shared. The gala will take place March 13 and will be virtual. Currently, \$80,000 has been raised for the general scholarship fund. Finally, an update on upcoming solicitations and stewardship activities was given.

### **Committee on Regional Development**

Trustee Paul Tine provided a progress report regarding the creation of a Board of Visitors. The bylaws have been completed and nominations are being accepted through April 15.

The Regional Economic Summit Planning meeting will be held on March 31. Stakeholders in Economic Development have been invited. This meeting is intended to determine if the summit will be valuable and work on the content for an agenda. Dr. Wilkins announced the appointment of Wanda Gill, Regional Center Director, Small

Business and Technology Development Center. He then shared a report on the Small Business and Technology Development Center scoreboard activity, 2020 totals and year to date activity. Those categories include Businesses Serviced, Business Counseling hours, Capital Formation Created, Jobs Created/Retained, New Business Starts and Training Events/Participants.

The committee then received information from Carson Rich, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for External Affairs. Highlights included:

- The Senate passed a \$1.9 trillion dollar COVID relief plan. A few changes were adopted from the original House version, but ultimately funds for higher education remained untouched.
- Overall, the bill includes roughly \$700 million for UNC System campuses (\$509 million regular Higher Ed. Relief Funding, plus \$191 million for HBCUs/MSIs/SIPs, which will benefit ten System campuses, including ECSU). The bill now needs a final vote in the House due to changes, but reports indicate it's not expected to be problematic.
- A \$25 million dollar appropriation was solidified for the local U.S. Coast Guard base to repair and renovate the airport's runways.
- At the state level, the 2021-22 biennium is underway. The legislature has an appetite for the UNC System Priorities and is very pleased with the four main pillars of the proposal – this includes (1) overall enrollment funding, (2) N.C. Promise funding, (3) building reserves and (4) faculty/staff salary raises.
- There is also an appetite for the UNC System's R&R funding list which includes roughly \$56.2 million for ECSU projects.
- UNC System is not asking for a specific dollar amount to be appropriated for salary increases, but rather asking that faculty/staff be treated equally to other North Carolina State employees.

### **Committee on University Governance**

Chair Jan King Robinson referenced that **Committee on University Governance** received update on Board of Trustees goals supporting the ECSU 2020-2025 strategic plan was reviewed.

Dr. Lane, Chief Human Resources Officer, referenced the personnel report provided in the materials. She then presented the 2019-2020 Diversity & Inclusion report.

Vice Chancellor Goodson, General Counsel, provided the Legal Affairs update in closed session.

### **Chancellor's Report**

Chancellor Karrie Dixon opened with greetings to the Board Chair, UNC Board of Governors Powers, Board members, ECSU leadership and all joining the meeting. Chancellor acknowledged Women's History month and saluted all serving on the Board, providing service to ECSU and beyond.

Chancellor Dixon paid tribute to the founders as the university celebrates 130 years of existence.

Chancellor then noted that the university is in great hands and the spring semester is off to an excellent start. The team is looking forward to a successful SACSCOC Reaffirmation visit March 15-18.

Last week, MC Belk Pilon, Chair of the John M. Belk Endowment along with Scott Hamilton, President, Golden Leaf Foundation, visited the campus. They received information on ECSU's community engagement, academic excellence and experiential learning, workforce development/career readiness, and the aviation program. Chancellor Dixon acknowledged several of the Executive Cabinet members in areas of professional development.

Chancellor Dixon concluded her report with invitations to join Founders Day Convocation on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and ECSU Foundation Scholarship Gala on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made and seconded (Bunch/Brown) to go into closed session. By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Once the Board returned to open session and there being no other business, Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gwendolyn Sanders*

Gwen Sanders

Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees & Deputy Chief of Staff