



Board of Trustees Meeting

September 12, 2023

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Johnson called the September 12, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Invocation

Roll Call

Trustee Christine Evans conducted roll call. Trustees present included Jay'quahn Blackledge, James Copland, Christine Evans, James Gailliard, Stephanie Johnson, Tiffany Jones (virtual), Patricia Norman, Johnny Tillett, and Justin Waddell.

Oath of Office

Chair Johnson called upon the Honorable Judge J.C. Cole to administer the oath to Patricia Norman, James Gailliard, and Jay'Quahn Blackledge, SGA President who will hold a seat on the Board.

Remarks from Board Chair

Chair Johnson first acknowledged and thanked those board members (Culpepper, Brown, and Robinson) whose term will end June 30th. She also acknowledged Ms. Gwendolyn Sanders for her years of service at ECSU and all she did for the ECSU Board of Trustees. Chair Johnson welcomed new board members 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 (Waddell/Copland) to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2023, & July 20/Special Board meeting. Motion passed.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion was made and seconded (Waddell/Tillett) to approve the consent agenda which included Design Approval. Motion passed.

Committee on Academic Excellence and Strategic Growth

Trustee Tiffany Jones reported the following: Provost Ward announced the division hired 13 new faculty and 14 new staff for the new academic year. Provost Ward shared information about upgrades made to Johnson Hall classroom and faculty offices. She also gave a preview of the upcoming Virtual Reality and E-Sports labs that will be housed in Lane Hall. Provost Ward provided information regarding the increase in enrollment for the fall 2023 semester. Information on enrollment of freshmen, transfers, stopouts, special students and adult learners was also shared. Provost Ward also announced a partnership with the non-profit organization, ideas42. ideas42 will work with ECSU to review data about the enrollment funnel and suggest where improvements may be made. ECSU's work with ideas42 is being funded by the Lumina Foundation. Lastly, information regarding the 2023-2024 Strategic Goals for Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Goal 3: Sustainable Growth was provided. This concludes the report for the Academic Excellence and Strategic Growth.

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, Athletics Director, Mr. James DuBose, Jr., and Student Government Association President, Mr. Jay'quahn Blackledge.

Dr. Gary Brown

Dr. Brown introduced new staff and appointments; Summer professional development; staff retreat (student affairs and university advancement) staff; professional development – students; Student Engagement, Housing & residence life; career development center; 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Updates; upcoming events' 2023 Homecoming Vikings Unleashed "A different World"; community connections ; Parent & Family Weekend. New Appointment, AVC Living Learning, Dr. Vonda Easterling; 4 new staff in Housing & Residence Life; 3 new staff in Career Development Center; Summer Professional Development series; Directing the Story; Crafting and promoting the story in addition to Employee Awards & Recognition; Student Leaders Professional Development; NASAP in Savannah, GA, 8 students attended; Kings and Queen Conference in New Orleans; Student Leadership Retreat and UNITE HBCU 6 resident advisors and graduate assistant staff attended. Orientation Data; Total registered 761/Total attended 537; 4 in person sessions and 3 virtual sessions. Housing and Residence Life – Total checked in 1003; 95% occupancy rate; Off campus housing; Hampton Inn 36 checked in; Pressley Hall (Mid Atlantic University) 36 checked in. 2020-25 Strategic Plan 4 Yr. goals in focus; 1.1.5; create standard expectations for students and faculty across all internships; 2.2.4 Construct or renovate a new residence hall that is responsive to student preferences and aligns competitively with institutional peer housing; 2.4.7; Develop a technology plan to enhance student services; 4.1.1; Build out student pre-alumni club to include one new program annually to teach students the value of service and philanthropy; 4.4.3; Create and implement plan to acknowledge, report and steward gifts in an appropriate and timely manner,

making full use of the Blackbaud Raisers Edge CRM platform and other advancement specific programs. Upcoming Events: 2023 Homecoming Schedule of Events; Upcoming Community Connections hosting the cast of A Different World and the US Navy Band. Parent & Family Weekend (November 3-4, 2023).

Mr. James DuBose, Jr.

Highlighted Student Athletes: 231 Student Athletics, student majors 1) sports management 2) Biology 3) Aviation; 27 transfer students; Highlighted our upcoming football games; September 23 vs Shaw; September 30, Homecoming vs Johnson C. Smith University; October 7 vs Virginia Union; November 4, Bluefield State University. ECSU will host the CIAA Volley Ball Round-up October 14-15 in the Vaughan Center. Saturday, November 25, 2023 – Harlem Renaissance Classic – Historic Gauchos Gym, Bronx, NY, ECSU, WSSU, Holy Family College and Bloomfield College. Thanked the group for supporting Athletics.

Mr. Jay'Quahn Blackledge

SGA president introduced and his cabinet; discussed welcome week activities and highlighted programming activities throughout the semester. Freshman Campaign Speeches, August 30, 2023 at 5pm; Campus Involvement, Public Safety student forum, Campus Safety Briefing and the Downeast Classic Football Classic.

Committee on Operational Excellence

Trustee Justin Waddell reported on the following:

Infrastructure Update

VC Goodson provided information on capital projects and the implementation of the master plan and the 6 districts of the campus. One of the focus is the Power Forward infrastructure project which will provide power to certain buildings to operate in the event the city has a power outage.

"This project includes the relocation of the radio tower, the replacement of domestic water lines, and the new infrastructure of the residence and dining hall. There will be clear communication protocols to keep the campus informed of project progress such as campus town hall meetings, a project website, building owner engagements and campus email communications. These will be multi-year phased projects. Lastly, the motion for the Mosely firm to design the Jenkins Science Complex classroom/lab was approved unanimously.

Information Technology Updates

Robert Thibeault gave informational updates on behalf of Jamar Jones, CIO reported new hire Dewy Pettiford as the new IT specialist. It was also reported the new RAVE campus safety alert system is up and running successfully to give critical communication through emails and text message alerts.

Communications and Marketing Update

Sandra Powers, CAM Interim Director reported to the board how strengthening and showcasing our brands is how ECSU tells their story and introduced the CAM team. The marketing initiatives were to showcase the fall recruitment campaigns, A Different World Homecoming event and the Down East Football classic. It was also reported that the launch of the new website has 38 web content contributors who have been trained to keep the website up to date. The CAM team has hosted events such as the annual back to school bash and the NENC football media day.

Committee on Finance, Audit and University Advancement

Trustee Jim Copland noted the updates from Finance, Internal Audit, and University Advancement. Vice-Chancellor for Business & Finance Robert Thibeault presented informational items only.

Financial Update(S):

He reported that General Fund expenditures and revenues as of 6/30/23 were 99.97% of the total budget and 6/30/23 Trust & Auxiliary fund balances were \$21.4 million, with \$15.5 million of these funds being unrestricted. An All-Funds Budget Report and an Endowment Report, both as of 6/30/23, were also provided. The Endowment had an overall fiscal year-to-date net earnings of -.01%.

Internal Audit Update(S):

Chief Audit Officer Sharnita Parker presented informational items regarding the completed audit reports, productivity of Internal Audit FY 2023 and Self-Assessment and Maturity Model (SAMM). Chief Audit Officer Parker presented the Final Determination Management Letter – Clery Act Reporting (A23008) that was sent to the Interim Chief of Police – Jason Suggs and the Clery Coordinator – Shara Chivers. She also provided them with her recommendations going forward.

University Advancement Update(S):

Vice Chancellor Gary L. Brown delivered a comprehensive update on various key aspects. He began by sharing the remarkable achievement of FY23 Fundraising Totals, which concluded at an impressive \$2,791,263.83. Additionally, Vice Chancellor Brown introduced a new model aimed at shaping the institution's future and unveiled recent appointments that have further fortified the team with valuable expertise. Looking forward, a fundraising goal of \$2,873,116.26 for FY24 was established, reflecting the institution's ambitious targets for the upcoming year. The presentation also highlighted the ongoing importance of the strategic plan as a guiding framework for achieving the institution's mission and vision, with specific goals outlined for FY24. Finally, Vice Chancellor Brown emphasized the commitment to enhancing engagement through initiatives such as the Elevated Game Day Experience, the Down East Viking Classic, and ECSU Homecoming. This presentation encompassed a wide range of updates and goals, celebrating past successes while charting an exciting course for the future.

Committee on Regional Development

The committee was called to order by Trustee Justin Waddell. Chief of Staff Alyn Goodson introduced Chip Lewin, Assistant Vice Chancellor/Deputy Chief of Staff. Chip will lead the legislative portfolio and the Regional Development Committee. We received information on ECSU Economic Impact Analysis presented by Carolyn Fryberger, Assistant Director of Economic Development, NCGrowth and Mark Little, Director of NCGrowth. Mark Little provides background information on NCGrowth and what NCGrowth provides. Carolyn Fryberger discussed past economic impact studies, methodology, the results of NCGrowth, and timeline/next steps for ECSU. Trustee Copland inquired about past economic impact studies. Carolyn will be sending requested information to Chief of Staff Goodson.

Committee on University Governance

The committee was called to order by Chair Stephanie Johnson. We heard a report from Nominating Committee Chair James Copland. Trustee Copland reported that we received 3 nominated that were unopposed. Stephanie Johnson for Chair, Johnny Tillett for Vice-Chair, Phyllis Bosomworth for Secretary.

No members provided nominations from the floor. Each member was asked to vote. The results will be reported during the nominating committee report.

Report from the Nominating Committee

Trustee James Copland, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that the following offices were unanimously approved

Chair – Trustee Dr. Stephanie Johnson
Vice Chair – Trustee Johnny Tillett
Secretary – Trustee Phyllis Bosomworth

Motion was made and seconded to approve the new Board officers. Motion passed.

Chancellor's Report

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

- 2027 Class Profile
- August 13th - Welcomed our newest Vikings to ECSU – Freshman Pinning Class of 2027
- Welcomed more than 35 new faculty and staff
- Staff Senate Service – Past Staff Senate Chair (Aileen Whidbee) & New Staff Senate Chair (Letitia Evans)
- Faculty Staff Senate Service Re-elected Dr. Walter Swan

- Key Strategic Goals - Year 4
- Legislative Priorities
- Forging Our Future – New Buildings – Residence Hall, Dining Facility, E-Gaming Lab
- United States Air Force & Navy JROTC Flight Academy
- Ruffalo Noel Levitz National Conference
- National Alumni Association Summer Convention
- HBCU Law Enforcement Executives & Administrators Association
- Received \$15,000 for Flight Program by Republic Airways
- HBCU Divine 9 Sunday
- Support of Our Board

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

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Hall

Whitney Hall

Administrative Support Associate