



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
September 22, 2020  
Virtual  
Minutes**

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Lynne Bunch called the September Board of Trustees meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and reminded the Board that the meeting will be conducted pursuant to the new amendments to the Open Meetings Act.

**Invocation**

Trustee Kim Brown rendered the invocation.

**Oath of Office**

The Honorable Judge Eula Reid administered the oath of office to Student Government Association president, Jimmy Chambers.

**Roll Call**

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

**State Government Ethics Act**

Secretary 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 (Swain/Brown) to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2020 meeting and the Special meetings on July 29, 2020. Roll call vote recorded unanimous approval. Motion passed.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

- a) Professor Emeritus Status for Dr. Velma Blackmon

- b) Annual Audit Plan
- c) Naming University Facilities and Units Policy
- d) Rosenwald School and Principals House Renovation
- e) Lease Approval for Airport Space
- f) Nominating Committee Report – 2020/2021 Board of Trustees Officers

Roll call vote recorded unanimous approval. Motion passed.

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

The Committee approved one action item, Dr. Velma Blackmon as Professor Emeritus. As information, the committee received an update on the SACSCOC Reaffirmation process, including the compliance certification report being submitted and received by the committee members by September 8, 2020, the timeline for the Off-Site Peer Review to be conducted November 3 – 6, 2020 and On-site Visit in March 2021, which will be conducted virtually. Provost Ward provided updates concerning Fall 2020 courses with 59% being face to face and 41% being online. Over \$75,000 was spent on faculty resources and an additionally \$170,000 was spent on classroom technology upgrades. Academic Affairs provided faculty online training during the summer with a total of 18 workshops with over 60 faculty participating. ECSU was granted a COVID-19 Mitigation Grant through the NC Collaboratory for \$1 million. This grant will allow ECSU to conduct COVID-19 testing on campus and in the 21-county service area. Provost Ward also shared about the collaboration with Wake Tech Community College. The partnership will center around ECSU's Emergency Management and Unmanned Aircraft System programs. Provost Ward provided information regarding the increase in enrollment and shared the university surpassed year two's strategic goal. Information on the increase in retention and persistence rates as well as an increase in graduate and transfer enrollment was also shared. An update was also provided regarding the Admissions Policy which no longer requires Spring 2021, Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 admits to have a test score on file. Admissions is conducting all recruiting events 100% virtually including the virtual Open House which is scheduled for October 3, 2020. Lastly, information regarding the 2020-2021 Strategic Goals for Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Goal 3: Sustainable Growth was also provided.

### **Committee on Student Excellence**

During the Committee on Student Excellence meeting, updates were provided by the Athletic Director George Bright, Student Government Association President, Jimmy Chambers, and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Gary Brown.

Athletics Director George Bright provided an overview of the Dept. of Athletics progress and highlights. The hiring of our new Volleyball Coach David Brooks and Assistant Women's Basketball Coach Ron Woodard.

AD Bright announced that the CIAA suspended the NCAA Competition for Fall 2020; this announcement was made on July 9, 2020. If a move to the Spring is adopted, revised game and practice schedules will be established. The department is working on a *tentative return to action plan* which promotes health and safety actions, the use of PPEs, prevention education and gradual increase of activities; Other areas of discussion:

Strategic plan initiatives 2.5.2, 2.5.3 and 2.5.7; (2.5.2 & 2.5.3 delayed due to COVID; 2.5.7 (Working with partners to advance goal of fundraising and capital improvements).

2019-20 academic performance; highest retention rate in the CIAA at 91.6%.

Efforts to create spaces for students to deal with Mental Health issues and concerns; Inviting Ms. Ivy Watts back again to ramp up efforts to support student athletes.

SGA President Jimmy Chambers highlighted 2020-21 goals for SGA, indicating that they are thinking outside the box related to keeping students engaged. He shared a video encouraging students to wear masks and to practice social distancing and other safety protocols. Upcoming initiatives are around Voter education and engagement; Town Hall meeting scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm.

During the Division of Student Affairs update, Vice Chancellor Gary Brown provided an overview of : 1) Fall 2020 Update; 2) 2020-21 Strategic Plan Goals; and 3) New Hires;

Fall 2020 Update:

- 81% Occupancy Rate

- Social Distancing and PPE protocols related to housing and residence life

- Management of Quarantined spaces

- Partnership with Student Health and the local Health Dept. and contact tracing

- Purchase and dissemination of Self-Health Monitoring Kits

- Ramping up of Programs and Services offerings – Student Engagement (in-person & virtual)

Strategic Plan Goals:

2.1.5 (3,400 users in Vikings Engage); 2.4.6 (\$452,100 in successful grants obtained); 2.6.4 (engagement of Alumni and Career services); 2.7.1 (Campus Climate Survey – will launch next month)

New Hires:

Dr. Nichole Lewis, Dean of Students and Mr. Eric Poyner, Title IX Investigator

### **Committee on Operational Excellence**

During the Committee of Operational Excellence meeting, the committee acted on the following two action items:

- The Rosewald School and Principal House renovation.
- The lease approval for additional space at the EC Regional Airport to obtain a 1350 sq. foot modular trailer on airport property.

Both items were approved for recommendation to the full Board.

The committee received the progress report on the NC Bond Projects of Moore Hall and G.R. Little Library. An update was presented on the USDA Project for Bias Hall renovations and the demolition of Hugh-Cale and Doles Hall. Information regarding the Hurricane Dorian Recovery Bill roof repair and negotiations with state construction was discussed. The Bedell Cafeteria Emergency Declaration completion will be complete by December 2020. A summary of HUB participation on current projects was shared. The committee received updates on the 800-ton chiller.

Dr. Wilkins discussed Information Technology matter and that steps are being taken for full recovery.

An update on social media participation was discussed and the strategic plan to increase ECSU visibility is ongoing. The Communications and Marketing division is working with other divisions to help tell the ECSU story.

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

During the Committee on Finance, Audit and University Advancement Committee meeting, there were two action items:

Annual Audit Plan – Approved.

Policy 900.3.1.2 Naming University Facilities and Unit Policy – Approved.

Vice Chancellor Lisa McClinton gave a budget update summary to include fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

FY20-21 Budget Update

New COVID Relief Funding

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds

Funds for PPE

Financial Outlook for FY22

An overview of the five-year strategic goal for budget and plans on how to achieve the goals was also shared.

Chief Audit Officer Sharnita Parker – provided an update of the audits and the outcome, included in the materials.

Vice Chancellor Anita Walton provided the committee with a fundraising update and overview of Advancement Activities. FY20 closed at \$1.69 Million, more than 50% over the \$1.1 Million goal. Donor participation increased among non-alumni constituents, corporations, and foundations. Overall giving by amount increased with all constituents except organizations. This was primarily due to the cancellation of spring activities due to COVID-19. The goal for FY21 is \$1.4 Million. COVID-19, donor cultivation and new prospects through digital and virtual channels were considered, as well as a three-year average when finalizing the goal. An update on the status of current fundraising efforts was provided. VC Walton shared details of the upcoming 1891 Strong Campaign which will kick-off on October 1 and run through October 24. The goal is to raise support from 1,891 donors. Contributions support: athletics, marching band, scholarships, and areas of the donor's choosing. An update on current actions with the strategic plan was provided. Most activity to date included setting baseline data, goal setting and developing an action plan. These are the primary efforts. Six new ECSU Foundation Board members were introduced, as well as new hires in the Division of University Advancement, which also reflect some of the infrastructure changes.

#### **Committee on Regional Development**

During the Committee on Regional Development meeting, Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Dr. Derrick Wilkins, announced the new role for Mr. Carson Rich; Special Assistant to the Chancellor for External Affairs. He will continue with his work in Government Relations while serving as the liaison for community and economic engagement.

Data was provided on the Small Business and Technology Development Centers in the areas of businesses served, business counseling hours, capital formation created and jobs created/retained.

Updates were presented surrounding Strategic Initiative #6/Secure our position as a catalyst in regional economic, social, and environmental development and facilitate collaboration with industry and government to improve our region.

The work to establish a Board of Visitors continues.

Additionally, a list of community organizations that the Chancellor's Executive Cabinet serves as members was shared.

#### **Committee on University Governance-Executive and Personnel Committee**

During the Committee on University Governance meeting, the Board members were thanked for participating in the self-assessment tool. More discussion on this assessment will be held during a Board Retreat.

The Chief Human Resources Officer, Dr. Lane was introduced to the Board members. Dr. Lane referenced the personnel information provided in the Board materials. She also shared how the Human Resources division is supporting faculty and staff during COVID-19.

### **Chancellor's Report**

Chancellor Karrie Dixon thanked the faculty, staff and students for displaying great resilience during the global pandemic and the cyber incident. Chancellor Dixon shared newsroom highlights which included the US News and World Report ECSU top marks in Annual Ranking publications; growth in graduate programs enrollment; and grant awards. In August, ECSU conferred an honorary doctorate of science degree to former UNC System Interim President William Roper. Ms. Lenora Mackey will receive an honorary doctorate of public service in December. ECSU will serve as a voting site for the November general election.

Chancellor Dixon then shared the 2020-2025 Forging Our Future video and slides of campus enhancements.

Motion was made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Wilkens to go into closed session. Motion by roll call vote passed.

During open session, Vice Chair Bunch asked the Board members to hold the date of November 11, 2020 for a Board Retreat. She then thanked Trustee Johnson for her service as the Board representative on the ECSU Foundation Board and thanked Trustee Chris Evans for accepting that position going forward.

There being no other business, Vice Chair Bunch adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gwendolyn Sanders*

Gwen Sanders

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