

Minutes of the Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees
Monday, May 22, 2023, at 5:30 pm
T-Building, Rooms 120 & 122

Present: Judge Jack Hooks, Chairman; Ms. Theresa Blanks; Dr. Dan Strickland; Ms. Crystal Frink; Mr. Henry Edmund; Mr. Bobby Ezzell; Dr. Gary Lanier; Mr. Randy Britt; and Dr. Timothy Lance

Others Present: Dr. Chris English, President; Dr. Sylvia Cox, EVP/Student Services; Ms. Ibreta Jackson, COO, VP/Administrative Services; Bill Maultsby, Human Resources Director; Terrie Priest, Foundation Director; Dr. Natalie Hinson, Dean of Instructional Effectiveness; Jess Hill, Clerk of Superior Court; Jennie Simmons, Executive Assistant; Mr. Tyler Cliff, Tech Support; and Mr. Justin Smith, News Reporter

Absent: Mr. Joe Hooks, Dr. Maudie Davis, Ms. Emma Shaw

Open Regular Board Meeting Session:

Welcome: Judge Jack Hooks welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting into session at 5:30.

Introduced the 2023-2024 SGA Officers:

Dr. Cox introduced SGA President Brad Wilder and told about his background, accomplishments, and future goals. He is a double major, has written 3 books, a veteran, married, and the father of two boys. Brad wants to serve and inspire others.

She then introduced SGA Vice President Summer Council. Dr. Cox told about her plans, she wants to represent the student body and advocate for students. She is in the medical office administration program.

Dr. Cox explained that SGA Secretary Maurice Simmons is in the electrical engineering and mechatronics programs. He wants to be a voice for student and be able to help with extracurricular activities.

Dr. English told that Maurice has graciously agreed to be our Rocco at events on campus and in the community.

Chairman Jack Hooks thanked them for agreeing to represent our student body and welcomed them. He stated that everything we do here is all about you students.

Swearing in of Reappointed Board Member:

Oath of Office: Clerk of Superior Court Jess Hill administered the Oath of Office to reappointed Trustee Theresa Blanks. Theresa Blanks was appointed by Columbus County Commissioners for a four-year term expiring June 30, 2027.

Game Changer Award Recognition: Dr. English said this award is for the person who goes over and beyond. He then presented Dr. Sylvia Cox with the Game Changer Award. He described her as a source of great information and like his right arm. The leadership she provides at the college

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is making a difference. Dr. Cox has worked and lived in this community her whole life and came to us from the K12 system. She is dedicated and has a passion for Southeastern Community College. Dr. Dan Strickland had glowing remarks about Dr. Cox from her time as a teacher and also told about her being Teacher of the Year.

Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder: Judge Hooks reviewed the Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Statement and asked for any trustee who has a conflict or the appearance of a conflict to recuse themselves from participation in the matter involved.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Jack explained that we will need to modify the agenda due to a family situation which will cause him to leave the meeting early. A motion was made by Randy Britt and seconded by Dr. Dan Strickland to approve the May 23, 2023 meeting agenda with the exception of Jack's changes of order on the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Jack Hooks said everyone should have read all of the consent agenda items in advance. There were no items to be pulled out for further discussion. With the exception of the agenda being amended, a motion was made by Dr. Gary Lanier and seconded by Dr. Timothy Lance to approve the Consent Agenda items. The motion was carried unanimously.

Jack then skipped down the agenda to cover the items he was responsible for.

Chairman's Comments:

Trustees Self Evaluation: Jack Hooks reported the results of the Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation. Eleven out of 12 Trustees completed the evaluation, which was made up of two sections, the first part was an evaluation as an individual trustee and the 2nd part was as a whole board. Jack reported that we thoroughly understand our duties. The survey shows we are confident in what we're doing, we are prepared and doing it well. There were no questions or concerns, everyone thought the results were accurate.

Nominations Committee: Jack Hooks recommended the following people to serve on the nominations committee:

- Henry Edmund
- Gary Lanier
- Randy Britt
- Theresa Blanks

Each person listed above agreed to serve on this committee. Jack stated that this group will select new leaders starting at the top.

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President's Evaluation: Jack explained that there was no need to go into closed session to review the 2023 Presidential Evaluation survey. He referenced the survey results located on BoardDocs and asked if everyone had a chance to review the results. A hard copy of the evaluation was offered to the group, but no one felt the need and there were no questions, concerns, or comments. Jack Hooks told Dr. English not to slow down.

Dr. English thanked the trustees for believing in him, the employees, the staff, the leadership team and for believing in what they do. He also thanked them for the contract extension and said he was ready to see what they accomplish in the next five years.

Selection of Acting Chair: Jack Hooks suggested that Henry Edmund step in as chairman due to his early departure from the meeting. Henry was in agreement to carry out the remainder of the meeting.

Dr. Dan Strickland made a motion that Henry Edmund step in as chair for the remainder of the May Board of Trustees' meeting. Randy Britt seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Voting Items:

Course Fees: Dr. Cox presented a list of course fee requests for Spring 2023 - Spring of 2024. **A motion to accept the increase in fees was made by Mr. Bobby Ezzell and seconded by Dr. Dan Strickland. Motion carried unanimously.**

Committee Reports:

Facilities:

Randy Britt, Chair of Facilities told that the facilities committee had met and interviewed 3 firms for the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR). The CMAR will oversee the entire building and guarantee the project. Barnhill Contracting Company had the highest scores, so the facilities committee made a recommendation to go with Barnhill.

The full board voted in favor of this motion.

Randy Britt pointed out the next item of business which was the Tabor City Community Center location for the Small Business Center. Dr. English explained this facility is located at the lake and we would use it until August at no charge. The facilities committee unanimously recommended we move forward with utilizing this location.

The full board voted in favor.

Randy Britt said It was also a unanimous decision to recommend to the full board that we temporarily lease the concrete pad in Fair Bluff for the Truck Driver Training Program from TG

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Lovett at \$500 per month. The lease will be for 1 year. There is also a trailer that will be relocated and used for a classroom. Dr. English said classes begin in August, so this is critical.

The facilities committee recommended using this concrete driving pad in Fair Bluff for \$500 per month for a temporary location for 1 year.

The recommendation passed unanimously.

Executive Report: Henry Edmund, (acting) Chair referenced the Level-Two Instructional Service Agreement with Caldwell Community College. Dr. English gave an update explaining we earn ½ of the FTEs from the classes. Caldwell will provide the instructor, the truck, and get us a budget bill. It takes about a year to build a budget to be able to run a program. The Executive Committee already approved this because it had to be reported to the State Board due to the grant we received in May.

Information Items:

Budget Analytic Report: Ibreta Jackson explained the state budget report through April 2023. We are at the 10th month out of 12 and are at 83% for spending. State budget received enrollment growth money at \$220,158 and it can carry forward indefinitely. We still have the budget stabilization money, we will use some this year, but the remainder will roll forward. We have it until December of 2024.

With our capital budget, we put in a couple of requisitions such as equipment and there is a bit of a lag time. It looks like we have spent about 34% of that budget. The good thing is if we don't spend our capital for that we can carry it forward to next year.

County operations budget spent to date target is 83% but we are at 80%. We are trending a little low; any unspent funds can carry forward. We have some prepaids like insurance that cost more earlier in the year then it balances out in the end.

The county gave us capital money and we have only spent about 40% of that. I think we're in good shape.

We will have a Finance Committee meeting in June to close out the year and then when we meet at the July meeting to run through the final numbers.

College Reports:

President's Report- Dr. English reported on the great success of our 2023 SCC Graduation where 198 graduates marched. He briefly told about changes for next year to combat the heat and make the event even better. He invited the Trustees to the June 8th event, where the Eagles tribute band, "On the Border" will perform on the front lawn. This band is from Charlotte but well known across the United States.

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He reported about the incredible Career Fair that took place earlier this month. Over 50 business and 250 people attended. At the end of the day, he followed up with Council Tool and they received 12 applications, the guy said that was the most he had gotten at one time. Everybody was so pleased with the success of this event.

Dr. English gave an update on the Small Business Center. He explained that we might change later, but for now we are pulling out of the old BB&T building to make room for a new company coming to the county. The county needs the space for economic development and the new company coming. At this time, we are setting up and concentrating on the Tabor City location.

Dr. English referenced being a former small business owner and his dad was a very successful small business owner. He said, "I believe in small business, I believe in what Pamela does, and I believe in the lab". For now, we are going to concentrate on the Tabor City location as you voted on.

We have a new system president, Jeff Cox. He is from Wilkes Community College and will assume his role June 1st. Dr. English addressed some of the many changes with the Community College System that are getting ready to take place. We may have a change in our funding model and the process of who appoints trustees will change. They are looking at the Senate, House Representative, and the commissioners each appointing 4 trustees each. He reported about some proposed governance changes that are coming from state board down to the trustee level.

One great change we are looking at is a pay increase for all employees at a minimum of 2.5%, the amount varies from the house to the governor, but it looks like they're agreeing on an increase.

Flex Lab: Dr. English gave an update on the 2500 square feet automotive flex lab, he showed pictures of the progress, and said we plan to have it completed by the end of June. It is completely framed in, and they are working on the facets on the side where the paneling will be bolted. There will be an area in the back for storage.

Executive VP Report- Dr. Sylvia Cox highlighted a few of the summer camps. We have more than doubled the number of opportunities for high school students. We will even offer nurse aide for high school students.

We have an array of camps offered like public safety, automotive, cosmetology, construction, engineering, and agriculture. We are bringing back "College for Kids" and we will have softball and baseball. We are partnering with our county EMS and fire. We're partnering with Columbus County Schools to put those two programs together; they are using their summer accelerator funds.

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Pool Update- The team has been in contact with the supplier, the pool is a heavier grade than we viewed in Longs, it can go underground, and can be locked and secured. We need someone to check out and give approval of our location. Ibreta said she had been in contact with Public Health. She is also researching to find out all we need to move forward. We learned that there is a 3 month lag time when the pool is ordered.

Dr. English said we are ready to move with the pool plan with approval from the health department. We currently have \$75K Canon money and SCIF funds to go towards the pool.

Trustees Retreat: July 18th, we will have our regular board meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon. That will take place at the Bumming Hole Lodge.

Old Business: NONE

New Business: NONE

Reminders: Henry Edmund pointed out the reminders on the agenda.

There was no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Strickland and seconded by Theresa Blanks at 6:20pm. All were in favor.



Judge Jack Hooks, Chairman
SCC Board of Trustees



Henry Edmund, Acting Chairman
SCC Board of Trustees



Dr. Chris English, President