

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Sledge Board Room  
April 4, 2022, 5:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Trustees George Little, Chairman; Larry Caddell, Vice Chairman; Joe Clendenin, Secretary; Gary Evans; Vincent Gordon; Art Blue; Tim Carpenter; Dr. Sandy Stewart; Bruce Hurst; Helen Probst Mills; Connie Lovell; Avery Campbell, SGA President; Michelle Marshall, SGA Vice President

**STAFF:** Dr. John Dempsey; Heather Lyons; Ron Layne; Dr. Rebecca Roush; Kellie Shoemake; Dr. Julie Voigt; Libba Thomas; Dr. D.J. Farmer; Germaine Elkins; Dr. Twana McKnight; Andi Korte; Chreatha Alston; Doug Smith; Chris Cheek; Matthew Dial; Teresa Sheets

**REMOTE:** Jessica Locklear, Lindsey Farmer, Dr. Kirk Lynch

Mr. Little called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Little read the statute regarding conflicts of interest to the Trustees and asked the Board if there were any potential conflicts with the agenda items to be discussed. Hearing none, Mr. Little proceeded to the next item of business.

Mr. Little made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Little asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Clendenin made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Campbell reported for the Student Government Association (SGA). Ms. Campbell reviewed events and information regarding student activities to include a Wellness Wednesday, offering students an opportunity to benefit from resources concerning mental health and wellness. Dr. Dempsey announced that Ms. Campbell was selected for the Eastern Region recipient of the Governor Robert Scott Leadership Award.

Mr. Caddell reported for the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Mr. Smith presented statistical information regarding Meyer Hall, which included a cost estimate and bond premium. He noted that the cost estimates now exceed \$2.7M against the \$2.1M bond premium. Further, architectural fees and other front-end costs reduce these funds to \$1.6M for renovation costs. Discussion ensued regarding deadlines for spending of funds. Dr. Dempsey asked for the Board's commitment to complete Foundation Hall. Mr. Caddell concurred with Dr. Dempsey

and stressed the Board's desire to complete the project as it was presented to the Moore County Board of Commissioners and to the citizens of Moore County.

Mr. Caddell made a motion to revisit costs regarding Foundation Hall based on Mr. Carpenter's initial analysis of the projected budget. The information will be reviewed during the May Board of Trustees meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Probst Mills, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Farmer presented specifics regarding electric signage to be installed on the Pinehurst and Hoke campuses. Signs for both locations have been approved by the Board. A design engineer will create the signs which will have brick foundations. The sign placed on the Pinehurst campus will be located at the Dempsey Student Center and will feature registration dates, events, and various information to connect with students. The Hoke campus sign will be located in the front of the campus. Dr. McKnight said that the sign on the Hoke campus would be a great marketing tool. Mr. Caddell made a motion to approve both the Pinehurst and Hoke campus signs with brick foundations. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Dempsey reported that a combination of State Construction Infrastructure (SCIF) and County American Recovery Program (ARP) may be available to allow for the construction of an additional building at the Larry Caddell Training Center. New permitting requirements will be addressed later in year 2, 3, and 4 of SCIF funds to plan to build a replacement classroom building and a later facility which will house an indoor shooting range. A local developer also has potential plans to build homes in the vicinity of the Larry Caddell Training Center. Ms. Probst Mills suggested that the College be transparent with the building plans, moving forward using the same footprint that is currently in place. Rezoning requirements will be addressed as required. Funding for the building was discussed. A building designer will be contacted, and a permit will be requested.

Regarding the Moore County land reversion, the reversionary clause will stand, and once the deadline has lapsed on April 17, 2022, the parcel of land will revert to the College. Attorney John May has confirmed that nothing further is needed for the reversion. Dr. McKnight confirmed all debts have been paid on the Hoke County land, also subject to a reversionary clause. John May is working with Hoke County to assist in reclaiming the land.

Mr. Smith reported that the Foundation Hall project is 50% complete. The team is proceeding with the installation of the heating and cooling system. There are no major delays at this time.

To commemorate the completion of Foundation Hall, Mr. Caddell suggested that a dedication be held in November 2022. Mr. Caddell also suggested that the names of the current Moore County Commissioners, to include Lewis Gregory, be added to a plaque on the building. Ms. Elkins said there will be a naming plaque for each building, to include recognition of the Bradshaws, an additional plaque with the Board of Trustees, and a snapshot of the Foundation Board at the time of the dedication. The signs will be in two separate locations. Mr. Caddell made a motion to have

the dedication in November, with a date to be determined. Mr. Clendenin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the ACE Hardware project, the college is fortunate to have been granted a soft wooded buffer between the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens and the developer's new facility to preserve sight lines and reduce noise. Mr. Carpenter reported that the airport appears to have no issues with the building plans as related to the ACE project and its impact on the SCC Horticultural Gardens, but it now has issues with outparcels that will be created beyond the scope of the ACE facility. Discussion ensued regarding the connectivity of the Southern Pines Greenway Trail into the current property. An environmental impact study may be necessary.

Ms. Thomas reported for the Finance Committee. Dr. Roush requested approval for the addition of course fees to ENG 111 and ENG 112 in the amounts of \$27 and \$32, respectively. This removes the need to purchase textbooks for these courses and makes content available directly. Mr. Caddell made a motion to approve course fees. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Thomas reviewed the status of the Financial Report and the State and County Bond Funds through February 28, 2022, with no Board action required. Insurance renewal information will be presented at the May 2022 Board of Trustees meeting.

Mr. Evans reported for the Personnel Committee. Mr. Evans asked for Board approval for the promotion of Michelle Bauer to Associate Vice President, Continuing Education and Workforce Development. He also asked for approval of Dr. Fallon Brewington as the new hire and replacement of Vice President, Andi Korte, Continuing Education and Workforce Development. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the positions of Ms. Bauer and Dr. Brewington. Ms. Probst Mills seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Evans presented the list of candidates for Staff Learning Opportunities. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the list of candidates. Mr. Clendenin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Evans presented Personnel Information with no Board action required.

Human Resources Director, Chreatha Alston, reported on a new employee insurance program through NC Flex. Employees will experience better dental, vision, life, and Ameriflex coverage for a lesser fee. The change in coverage will offer up to an estimated \$82,000 cost savings for the College.

Nicole Worley, Director, College and Career Readiness, introduced Isabel Cain, recipient of the Moore County "20 under 40" award. Ms. Cain is a coordinator of English Language Arts in the Continuing Education office. Ms. Worley highlighted Ms. Cain's many achievements in the community and on the campus of Sandhills Community College. As Dr. Farmer explained,

Brandi Swarms, former SCC student, in addition to filming Ms. Cain's story, is filming 25 commercial grade videos telling the stories of SCC students and how SCC has been an integral part of their journey. These documentary films will be shared on social media and will be used to promote the College.

The accountability and Integrity Report for Year 2021 was distributed in your packets. Continuing Education and Workforce Development met objectives and accountability measures for 2021. The Class Visitation outcomes are presented with no issues.

Dr. Voigt reported on Hoke-Sandhills Enrollment Strategies. Dr. Voigt shared information about the partnership with Hoke County K-12 schools. Meetings are ongoing with the superintendent, exploring ideas on how to reach communities and K-12 partners. Dr. Voigt, Dr. McKnight, Dr. Farmer, Michelle Bauer, and Lindsey Farmer make up a group who has met for the past 7 months to discuss enrollment strategies. The group has worked with department chairs to develop a rotation at the Hoke Center for new associate degrees that will be offered. Many classes needed to achieve these degrees will be available in person.

Dr. McKnight is working to find ways to bring the community to the Hoke Campus. One of those ways is that she will reach out to Brandi Swarms, videographer, to access videos that she has created which will help market programs so that individuals in Hoke and surrounding counties can access the information. This will hopefully create more interest and prompt individuals to attend classes in the fall. Dr. McKnight is also working with Danaka Bunch, Director, Center for Creative Learning and Lifelong Learning Institute, to hold kids' summer camps on the Hoke Campus.

Dr. Stewart reported that the Educational Programs Committee met on March 23, 2022. Recent programs added to the fall schedule are Building Construction Technology, Construction Management, and a CT Scan Certificate, which is a one-year program.

Dr. Farmer offered statistical information regarding current enrollment as compared to spring 2021. The semester year finished with a 3% increase in Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) and 6.5% increase in student headcount. Dr. Farmer attributed the growth to COVID funding which helped with student tuition and to the aggressiveness of marketing in course offerings.

Mr. Clendenin reported that the Planning Committee has not met. Mr. Clendenin stated that the College Strategic Plan (CSP) is reviewed annually during February of the year. The committee has conducted a mid-year evaluation. Mr. Layne presented information regarding enrollment initiatives. He also presented an update on athletics to include beach volleyball and men's basketball. Ms. Elkins will transition to the athletics sector soon. Mr. Layne reported on the Old North State baseball team and the new concession stand to be located near the baseball field.

Ms. Shoemaker reported for the Student Affairs Committee. She introduced Chris Cheek, Director of Military and Veteran's Services. Mr. Cheek reported that the Quiet Space in the

Boyd Library has been a wonderful place for students to relax and recharge and that he has seen an influx of returning students. Mr. Cheek is excited to partner with others on campus and also looks forward to getting out into the community in the future.

Dr. McKnight reported on the success of Brothers Achieving Success in Excellence (BASE). The program now has 28 success coaches and served 137 students during the fall and 167 students during the spring. A total of 88 students from fall transitioned into spring. The program has 3 elements – success coaching, mentorship, and personal and professional growth. Dr. McKnight added that BASE has partnered with the SCC club, Alliance for Black Culture, and has invited students to participate in college tours.

Discussion ensued regarding SCC apparel. Ms. Probst Mills suggested that in order to make some money and also raise awareness about Sandhills, the public should have the opportunity to purchase college apparel at a pop-up shop or festivals/street fairs in the county as folks would not necessarily come to campus to purchase these items.

Ms. Elkins presented the Foundation Report. Cassidy Benjamin and her husband, Mike, welcomed a new baby girl. Ms. Elkins commended Steve Melone, Chris Waldrop, Stephanie Lang, and Jessica Locklear for their excellent work in the Bradshaw Performing Arts Center (BPAC). Recent guests at BPAC include Ben Carson and Kristen Chenoweth. David Feherty will visit BPAC on April 6 and 7. The Annual Guarantors Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 12 at 5:30 p.m. in BPAC. Dr. Ryan Book and Dr. Kristina Henckel will perform. Morgan Sills has been hired as the Director of BPAC, replacing Joe Brown. Branford Marsalis will perform in BPAC on April 28 and will also participate in a Ruth Pauley Lecture. There will be a semi-annual Foundation Board meeting on August 25 at Forest Creek.

Dr. Dempsey presented the President's Report. He expressed his gratitude to the BPAC team for their success with the Ben Carson and Kristen Chenoweth events. Upcoming events will include David Feherty and Branford Marsalis. Dr. Dempsey thanked Ron Layne for his dedication as he moves into the position of Chief Operating Officer. Matt Dial was introduced as the new president of the Faculty Assembly. The College received a gift from Buddy Hines. There will be two commencement exercises this year on May 14. Dr. Dempsey asked Board members if they would like to attend the 8:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. commencement. The August Board of Trustees meeting will be held at the Weymouth Center. There will be a college-wide picnic following the meeting on the Weymouth lawn. Trustees will meet for an ACCT conference in New York October 26 - 29, 2022.

Ms. Probst Mills asked if BPAC fees will be reviewed. Dr. Dempsey said that a review will be conducted, and a proposed rate schedule will be discussed.

Mr. Little reported that 21,000 job positions have been announced in two industries in North Carolina; 7,500 in Greensboro and 13,500 in Raleigh. There will be much economic activity

from a development perspective, and community colleges will be called upon to train the workforce for many of the positions.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George Little, Chairman of the Board

Joseph Clendenin, Secretary of the Board