



## Board of Trustees Meeting

March 19, 2024

### Minutes

#### **Call to Order**

Chair Stephanie Johnson called the March 19, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting to order at 1:48 p.m.

#### **Roll Call**

Trustee Phyllis Bosomworth conducted roll call. Trustees present included James Copland, James Gailliard, Christine Evans, Dr. Stephanie Johnson, Patricia Norman, Johnny Tillett, Paul Tine, Justin Waddell, and Jay'Quhan Blackledge, Stephen Friedrich (via zoom), Tiffany Jones (via zoom).

#### **Remarks from Board Chair**

Chair Johnson presented Dr. Paul Norman with the Trustee Emeritus Award on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

#### **State Government Ethics Act**

Chair Stephanie Johnson reminded the Board that the meeting will be conducted pursuant to the amendments to the Open Meetings Act related to virtual meetings. 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 (Bosomworth/Tine) to approve the minutes of the December 2023 Board meeting. Motion passed.

#### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion was made and seconded (Bosomworth/Tine) to approve the consent agenda which included the Approval to demolish Cardwell-Hoffler Heath Center, Approval to demolish Ridley University Center (Old Ridley), Approval demolish Bedell Hall, Approval to increase funding of Rosenwald and Principal House (\$2,173,872.00). UNC System FY 2025 All Funds Budget Approval. Naming University Facilities and Units Policy (900.3.1.2) Revision Approval, Policy Revision Approval: Policy 100.1 Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, Policy Approval: Board of Trustees of the Endowment Policy. Amend the 2023-2025 Head

Women's Basketball Coach Contract, Approve the 2024-2027 Head Men's Basketball Coach Contract, Approve the 2024-2025 Head Volleyball Coach Contract Motion passed.

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

Trustee Tiffany Jones, Chair, opened the meeting with roll call and approval of minutes. She then called upon the Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs to share updates.

Provost Ward reviewed the Faculty Workload Policy Timeline and roadmap. She also shared information about the AI (Artificial Intelligence) Taskforce and reviewed the responsibilities of the taskforce. Dr. Ward shared the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund information. Four of the nine Distinguished Professorships are in STEM and all four have been approved and are in the system office's queue to receive matching funds. Dr. Ward provided information regarding the Foundation of American Democracy Requirement. The proposal will require students entering on or after July 1, 2025, to successfully complete a course or courses covering the foundations of American democracy. The American Democracy Requirement is scheduled for a full vote at the April Board of Governors meeting. Provost Ward shared information about the proposed changes to the Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR) being considered by the Board of Governors. In addition, she also discussed the ROI (Return on Investment) Study which showed all ECSU programs, with the exception of Birth-Kindergarten, having a positive student ROI. Ms. Karen Lucas shared an enrollment update. Student enrollment information from Fall 2023 – Spring 2024 was discussed. There was an increase in applications, admitted students, and confirmations for readmitted and transfer students. There was an increase in applications, a slight decline in admitted students, and a slight decline in confirmation for first time students. Efforts of the recruiting staff was also shared including the highlights from various recruiting events. Ms. Lucas also reviewed changes related to FAFSA and the initiatives to provide support to students. This concludes the report for Academic Excellence and Strategic Growth.

### **Committee on Student Excellence**

Trustee Tillet led the committee meeting on Student Excellence. Following roll call and the approval of the minutes, he called on each liaison for updates.

During the Committee on Student Excellence, we received informational updates from Interim, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs & University Advancement, Dr. Kevin J. Wade, Athletics Director, Mr. James DuBose, Jr. and Student Government Association President, Mr. Jay'Quahn Blackledge.

Dr. Kevin J. Wade: Provided updates on new hires, unit updates Career Development, Student Engagement, housing and residence life, student counseling services and community connections; 2020-25 Strategic Plan updates, HBCU Give Back "A national 'service Initiative, Viking Fest and upcoming community connections.

Dr. Wade introduced new hires and new appointments for the division; highlighted or Career Development Services; Senior Exit survey (Fall 2023) 74%; National average 65%; listed the top majors; percentage of students who completed internships 50%; and post-graduation plans 75% seeking full-time employment; 10% to further education and 15% seeing part-time employment, military and/or trade services; Highlighted the Career Development Expos; 70 employers represented and 327 students attended. CDC Campus impact; Total of 202 students reached; 17 class presentations; highlighted high-level partnerships to include Thurgood Marshall HBCU emerging leaders program, Methodist University Health Professional Seminars; and the NC Dept of HHS and Juvenile Justice Hiring event. Student Engagement: ML King March 253 students attended and 43 registered vendors for the Clubs & Organization Fair; Living Learning: Spring Semester Move-in 925 in student housing; 16 males residing at the Hampton Inn and 27 females at MACU; 961 students utilizing campus shuttle; Student Counseling services: 14 events held (Jan-Feb) 301 in attendance; extended hours until 7 pm on Tuesdays and Thursday's; Student Affairs received national recognition; ECSU among 25 others given the distinction of being named one of the most promising places to work in student affairs. Community Connections, Jazz at Lincoln Center 516 tickets sold; 155 comp tickets; 2020-25 Strategic Plan Updates 1.1.5 Create standard expectations across internships; 2.2.4, New construction of Residence Hall, 2.4.7, Develop technology plan to enhance the student experience; 4.1.1 build out pre alumni club and 4.4.3, create and implement plan for reporting gifts in a timely manner using CRM; Special Initiative: HBCU Give Back "National Service Initiative" in partnership with Partners for Rural Impact (\$450K grant); Upcoming Community Connections: Don't Touch my Pen (March 28) Women's History Month; and Chrisette Michele during Viking Fest.

Mr. James DuBose, Jr.: Academic achievements dept GPA 3.19; 5 with 4.0; 114 with 3+ GPA; Great CIAA Event in Baltimore; congratulations to our women's basketball team; 2024 Women's Basketball Northern Division champions. ECSU will host the CIAA Softball Round Up (March 21-24, 2024); The athletics department will host a Nike basketball camp at ECSU on June 8-12; ages 7-18; 50 in 50 Campaign; encouraged all to support. AD thanked all who supports our student athletics.

Mr. Jay'Quahn Blackledge: Highlighted campus engagement activities with the NC Black Alliance, Chancellor Dixon and student Leadership meeting, CIAA Basketball Tournament, CIAA Student Government President Proposal, Upcoming SGA Week and the elections; Election timeline is March 22-April 17, 2024; 50 students interested in leadership positions; lots of overwhelming interest. Advocacy: SGA Revised Constitution and ECSU will host ASG on April 26-27, 2024; Thanked everyone for their support.

### **Committee on Operational Excellence**

Trustee Justin Waddell, Chair, called the meeting to order. Following roll call and the approval of minutes, Chair Waddell called upon the committee liaisons for updates.

## INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES:

VC Goodson provided an update on the implementation of the master plan is progressing and Ryan Strickland conducted a town hall meeting on March 5th with over 140 in attendance in or online. The meeting gave insight on the progression of the construction being done on campus. He also reported on the campus lockdown system and the improvements of this system's capabilities allows control of entrance and unauthorized entrances into the dorms with the exclusion of Viking Village. VC Goodson reported that a time lapse camera has been put in place and is accessible to see the continued development of the structures of the dorm and cafeteria. Presentation slides were demonstrated to show how the advanced planning of the new flight school will be shown from different points of view. These slides were just a glimpse of how the building could be, however, the university has the ability to make changes if necessary. VC Goodson informed the board on the campus HVAC projects stating that the Jenkins Science building was completed, and the remaining dorms Viking Village and Williams Hall will be completed by end of summer. The action item of the Rosenwald School & Principal House was approved for the increase funding from \$55,000.00 to \$2,173,872.00. Trustee Evans made the motion to approve and Trustee Tillet second, all were in favor. The second action item was approved to demolish Walter Ridley (Old Ridley), Bedell Hall and Caldwell-Hoffler. Trustee Blackledge made the motion to approve, and it was seconded by Trustee Tillet.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATES:

Mr. Jamar Jones, CIO reported the Division of Information Technology was upgrading the digital signage on the campus. This upgrade with the assistance of the RISE Vison software tool will up to the minute accurate information to students, faculty, and staff. It will improve the communication portal on how important changes or university updates regarding weather, or university closings is distributed. It was also reported that the client services helpdesk ticket system was 45% improved from the last quarter. Lastly, VC Jones informed the board that IT Administrative Computing has been able to expedite the process of student clearance with less complications which makes for clear communication.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING UPDATES:

Newly appointed Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communication, Dr. Tiffany Jones reported on the media platforms the university owns, paid or earned. These platforms include the paying for traditional ads on radio stations, media placements and social network channels on Facebook, TikToc and LinkedIn gave positive turnouts for the Blueprint campaign around the state. Presentation slides were provided to show evidence of the increased visibility footprint for ECSU.

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

Trustee James Copland, Chair, called the meeting to order. Following roll call and the approval of minutes, Chair Copland called upon the committee liaisons to share updates.

#### ACTION ITEM(S):

Action Item #1 – Approval for the FY 2025 All Funds Budget – was presented by Vice Chancellor Robert Thibeault. He gave a brief history of how the UNC System All Funds Budget. After which Vice Chancellor Thibeault gave a brief summary of our FY 2024-2025 revenues that totaled approximately 86.2 million dollars and expenses totaling 87.2 million dollars. This left a deficit of roughly 1 million dollars, mostly from Athletics, which will be eliminated when we receive the Fiscal Year 2025 State non-reoccurring fund. VC Thibeault also gave the operating expenses by Unit. The motion was made by Trustee Paul Tine to accept the Approval for the FY 2025 All Funds Budget and seconded by Trustee Chris Evans. All was in favor. The motion carried.

Action Item #2 – Approval for the Naming of Building Policy – was presented by Interim Vice Chancellor Kevin Wade. One part of the policy was not clear in regard to the word “and”. The wording in the policy made the donor feel that if the building was demolished or if for some reason the name was removed the donation made by the donor would be returned. Removing the word “and” from the policy would make it clear to the donor that no funds would be returned. The updated language is in alignment with other UNC institutions. The motion was made by Trustee James Gaillard and seconded by Trustee Paul Tine. All was in favor. The motion carried.

Vice Chancellor Robert Thibeault informational items included the General Fund report which included expenditures and revenues as of 12/31/23 45.5% of the total budget was spent: \$22,841,405. Trust and Auxiliary Fund as of 12/31/2023/30/23 59% of the Budgeted Trust and Auxiliaries and 48% of the total Budgeted Funds was spent. An All-Funds Budget Report and an Endowment Report, both as of 12/31/23, were provided within the Board Book materials.

Chief Audit Officer Sharnita Parker presented informational items only. She gave the report for two completed audits. The first was a Cell Phone Management Audit and second was Allegations of Nepotism in Facilities Management. Both audits were completed. The review for the first audit showed that there were some internal control deficiencies regarding deactivation of cell phone service plans for separated employees. The review of the second determined that the allegation was partially substantiated in regard to some of the applicants being more qualified than the applicant hired. audit was regarding Nepotism policies. Management for both audits received recommendations and responded accordingly.

Interim Vice Chancellor Dr. Kevin Wade provided updates on Fundraising Totals: Leadership Giving for FY24, revealing that the ECSU Board of Trustees has giving 69%, ECSU Foundation Board has given 63%, ECSU Board of Visitors has given 52% and he has added the ECSU NAA Board to capture their level of giving and they have given 46%. The goal

100% across all for boards by June 30, 2024. Advancement is up by \$356,520.35 in fundraising totals in comparison to last year. Dr. Wade informed the committee that we received an additional \$10,000 grant from the U. S. Swim Association thanks to Frank James and Angie Wills. Interim VC Wade informed the committee that since he stepped into the position on January 1st and from that time until March 15, he was happy to report that they raised over \$580,000 and a portion of that is credited to our alumni efforts. Dr. Wade thanked the team and everyone they contributed.

Dr. Wade informed the committee that he and the Advancement team passed the Founders Day Gala's goal with the total of \$162,150.

Dr. Wade briefed the committee on some of his goals, initiatives and updates for his areas.

### **Committee on Regional Development**

Trustee Paul Tine, chair, called the meeting to order. After roll call and approval of minutes, Trustee Tine called upon Associate Vice Chancellor William Lewin. AVC Lewin discussed focusing on goal 6 of the strategic plan. He provided an update on the ECSU Governance Committee formed to coordinate operational efforts between divisions and coordinate regional economic outreach throughout the university. The committee is led by AVC Lewin and AVC Lane, our Chief Human Resources Officer, with members made up of leaders within each division. Mr. Lewin updated the committee on the NC Growth Economic impact study which is expected to be finalized by the end of April. Mr. Lewin highlighted recent outreach meetings in support of Objective 6.1 to build partnerships as well as efforts to enhance Applied Research and Consulting in support of Objective 6.2. AVC Lewin informed the committee that the SBTDC is currently meeting or exceeding all of its business support goals. He also reported on research funding showing 2024 in excess of \$10.5 million which is well ahead of 2023 where \$16.4 was raised for the entire year. Finally, he spoke about activities in support of Community Experiences and Involvement including participation in the Downtown Economic Vision Forum and the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo.

### **Committee on University Governance**

Trustee Stephanie Johnson called this committee meeting to order. Vice Chancellor, Chief of Staff & General Counsel Alyn Goodson advised he had two (2) action items.

VC Goodson reminded the Committee about a year and a half ago the UNC System was focused on Delegations of Authority and clarifying who has what authority. A memo was received from President Hans' Office clarifying some additional authorities related to personnel appointments specifically around EHRA personnel actions, Tier 1 and Tier 2 Salary adjustments, Head Coach Contract Salary and other Salary actions. As a result of President Han's memo, ECSU needs to update the bylaws to reflect the delegation of Chancellor's authority under Article 10.

VC Goodson requested the Amendment to ECSU's Policy 100.1 Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, Article 10, be approved to show compliance with the request from President Hans. A motion to approve the amendment was made by Trustee Copland and seconded by Trustee Tillett. The motion carried unanimously.

VC Goodson then advised the second action item is to reestablish the Membership for the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund. He advised the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund is a separate committee outside of the Board of Trustees, but the membership is appointed by the members of the Board of Trustees and this authority was created by NC General Statute 116-36. The Endowment Fund will have the power to buy, sell, lend, exchange, lease, transfer or otherwise dispose of or acquire any property, real or personal, with respect to the fund, in either public or private transaction, and outside of the traditional state provisions. The Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund does not have to comply with open meeting requirements and can therefore meet privately and outside of the public view. Also, the Endowment Fund is not subject to the requirements for public records requests, and it is not a subsidiary or subcommittee of the Board of Trustees.

By statute, the Endowment Fund can have no more than nine members or less than six. The members will be the Board of Trustees Chair Johnson, Chancellor Dixon, Trustee Bosomworth, Trustee Holding, Trustee Gailliard, Vice Chancellor Thibeault, and the ECSU Foundation Board Chair. The other two members will be appointed at a later time. A motion to approve the re-establishment of the Membership of the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Policy was made by Trustee Copland and seconded by Trustee Tine. The motion carried unanimously.

VC Goodson informed the Committee that there were some items for action during closed session and he then requested to go into closed session. In order to preserve the attorney-client privilege, Trustee Tillett made a motion to go into closed session so the Committee can discuss confidential matters pertaining to the University. The motion was seconded by Trustee Copland. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Chancellor's Report**

Chancellor Karrie Dixon provided updates to the Board regarding the following:

Strategic Enrollment Growth:

Statewide Recruitment Initiatives

ECSU & Northeastern NC School Districts Building the Viking Bridge Together  
Event

Winter Open House

Academic Advancement: Community College Partnerships – In Progress: College of the Albemarle & Lenior Community College; Academic Development – Project Kitty Hawk

External Engagement: Partners in Progress Reception, HBCU Fly-In, Legislative Short Session Request

Internal Engagement: Building Stronger Bonds Student Engagement & Leadership Meeting, Mental Health Training

Historic Recognition: Founders Day Convocation: Keynote Speaker, Dr. Otis Smallwood. Founders Day Scholarship Gala: six recipients of the Chancellor's Legacy Award. The UNC System Office award Dr. Kuldeep Rawat the 2023 Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr. Award

Women's History is Our History Celebrating the contributions of former faculty: Dr. Carolyn Robertson Payton & Dr. Helen Marshall Caldwell  
Chancellor Dixon concluded by thanking the leadership team, faculty and staff, and the amazing student body.

Following Chancellors highlights The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Charting Ceremony for the Elizabeth City State University Unit took place.

There being no other business, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Whitney Hall*

Whitney Hall, Event Services Coordinator