**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**March 25, 2022**

**Virtual**

**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

Chair Stephanie Johnson called the March Board of Trustees meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**Invocation**

Trustee Kim Brown rendered the invocation.

**Roll Call**

Trustees present included: Phyllis Bosomworth, Kim Brown, Jimmy Chambers, James Copland, Andy Culpepper, Chris Evans, Stephen Friedrich, Stephanie Johnson, Tiffany Jones, Jan King Robinson, Johnny Tillett, Paul Tine, Justin Waddell.

**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 (King Robinson/Brown). Motion passed via roll call vote.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion was made and seconded (Friedrich/Tillett) to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following items:

* 1. Approval of Demolition of Rental Property
  2. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the University to Issue Debt not to exceed $7.5M
  3. Approval of Infrastructure Designer
  4. Approval of Housing and Dining Designer
  5. Approval of Revised FY22 General Fund budget/due to allocation of new recurring funds in Nov. 21
  6. Approval of FY23 All Funds Budget
  7. Approval of Revised Internal Audit Charter
  8. B.S. Aviation Scient – Add Online Deliver Mode

Motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**Committee on Academic Excellence and Strategic Growth**

Trustee Tiffany Jones shared that the committee approved one action item, adding an Online Delivery mode, BS for Aviation Science with a concentration in Flight Education.

Provost Ward shared the Spring 2022 academic calendar changes due to the increased spread of the Omicron variant. Dr. Ward provided an update regarding the mission statement for the university, shared policy revision to UNC Regulation 400.2.3[R], Regulation on Mission Statements and the proposed revised mission statement. Additional updates included how academic programs have applied research into the curriculum through a variety of programs.

D. Ward announced he partnership between the university and NC Council on Economic Education and, the $1.2 million National Science Foundation award for the Noyce Program and the $320,000 PNC three-year entrepreneurship grant. Provost Ward shared the revised UNC Policy 700.1.3: Out of State Undergraduate Enrollment.

Mr. Marcio Moreno shared upcoming events regarding enrollment management. He presented a comparison between Spring 2022 and Spring 2021 enrollment data. Mr. Moreno also provided information regarding freshman enrollment data.

**Committee on Student Excellence**

Trustee Kim Brown noted that Dr. Gary Brown, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs provided the following highlights: new staff and appointments; Spring 2022 Campus snap shot; update on COVID-19; Housing and Residence Life; Special initiatives, myFutureNC and Lumina Adult Learner Initiative; Veterans and Military Services update and new location; Snapshot of Strategic Planning goals and Upcoming events. He announced upcoming Community Connections events, March 31 (TShombe Selby, Night of Music) and April 21 (Dallas Black Dance Theatre).

Athletic Director George Bright highlighted Coach of the Year (Women’s Head Basketball Coach Tynesha Lewis; Rookie of the Year and our success at the 2022 CIAA Tournament. He also reviewed the athlete’s academic success. Welcomed new Vikings: Football Head Coach Marcus Hillard and a full team of assistant coaches and grad assistants; also welcomed new Women’s Tennis Coach; 2022 NCAA Convention Recap; new legislation, football chances and transfers. Shared the 2022 Football Schedule, first game September 3rd; Strategic Plan: Increasing Fan engagement and exposure; Facility Improvement Plan.

SGA President Jimmy Chambers shared an overview of the SGA Goals; Civic Engagement, students attended a march in Alabama with the Black Voter’s Matter initiative; Panel involvement: Title IX, Red and Green Flags, NCDHHS and HBCU mental health summit and the Hunt Institute along with other HBCU SGA leaders. UNC ASG Report, conversations with Gov. Jim Holmes, Jennifer Haygood and Gov. Sonja Nichols; Student Experience Survey: 144 responses; campus residence hall, campus safety, dining services and student experience; Congratulated Miss ECSU on her recent win of Miss CIAA.

**Committee on Operational Excellence**

Trustee Jan King Robinson noted that updates were received from Vice Chancellor Alyn Goodson in the following areas:

**Campus Master Plan** Vines Architectureis moving quickly and proposing smart design concepts for locations on all the new buildings and capital projects on the horizon. A nationally renowned engineering firm, RMF was selected for the Underground Infrastructure for Electrical & Water, this project will take some time to complete. Vice Chancellor Goodson asked for a motion to approve the following action items: Approval of demolition of rental property; Infrastructure Upgrades Design Firm and Housing & Dining Hall Designer. The Board APPROVED all action items. Vice Chancellor Goodson will update the board on Phase 2 of capital projects of the Aviation School and Skybridge Project.

**Information Technology Updates**

Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Dr. Derrick Wilkins reported that DIT had no new updates, however the initiative on preparing to mitigate cyber security breaches is ongoing. Policies have been put in place for future attacks.

**Communications and Marketing Update**

Dr. Wilkins reported that ECSU has been put in the most favorable and positive light recently. ECSU has been strategic on controlling the narrative of the university. The media outlets have been giving positive traction on all the great things happening at ECSU with students getting internships, collaborations with other outside stakeholders and even the delay of the Spring semester. ECSU has made it a point to give media outlets newsworthy information, and they have responded very favorable on our behalf.

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

Trustee Andy Culpepper shared the following committee updates; Vice-Chancellor for Business & Finance Lisa McClinton presented action items and informational items. The three action items were: Approval of a resolution authorizing the University to issue debt, the approval of the Revised FY22 General Fund Budget, and Approval of the FY23 UNC System All Funds Budget. The Committee approved all three resolutions.

She then gave informational updates on her unit`s Strategic Plan progress, FY23 Tuition & Fee Changes, General Fund expenditures & revenues, and Endowment. For the Strategic Plan progress, she stated that the completion of the All-Funds Budget and the expected implementation of budgeting software moves us closer to reaching Strategic Goal 5.1. The updates on FY23 Tuition & Fees were that the $39 increase to the Student Activity Fee that we approved in December 2021 to support student transportation has been changed to a Miscellaneous Fee that Chancellor Dixon approved in January 2022. Therefore, there will be no change to the FY23 Student Activity Fee. The increases to the nine Aviation Flight Fees that we approved in December 2021 and sent to the Board of Governors for its consideration has been removed after the System Office stated it would advocate for recurring funds to support the University`s Aviation program in the upcoming FY23 General Assembly Budget Short Session.

The update on FY22 General Fund and Trust & Auxiliary budgets was as follows: General Fund expenditures and revenues as of 12/31/21 are on target and 12/31/21 Trust & Auxiliary fund balances were $13.4 million, with $9.9 million of these funds being unrestricted. Finally, the Endowment Fund update was given. Overall net earnings were 8.1% for the current fiscal year as of 12/31/21, with the net market value of the endowment being $10.49 million.

Chief Audit Officer Sharnita Parker presented one action item and informational items. The action item was the approval of the Internal Audit Charter which contained revisions to add additional entities that we report to and to include core principles language in the Standards of Internal Audit Section. The Committee approved this resolution. The informational updates are as follows: The completion of two reports. The first was Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II and the second was Financial Aid Operations. There were no findings for either report. The second update was a summary of the Internal Audit’s Quality Assessment Review. Internal Audit received the highest rating of Generally Conforms at the completion of their Quality Assessment review December 15, 2021.

Vice-Chancellor for University Advancement Anita Walton provided the committee with an update on fundraising progress to date, stewardship efforts, solicitations, engagement, and efforts toward the strategic plan goals. Total dollars received as of March 20, 2022, are $1,278,902. This is a difference of roughly $227,000 over where we were in March of FY21. Current total number of donors is 994. Steady trends for donor participation are reflected across other constituents. Fundraising progress was reviewed. VC Walton shared 60 proposals have been submitted this year for a requested fund amount of $8,179,500 YTD. Recent stewardship efforts were reviewed which included the Elevated Game Day Experience for basketball, 2021 tax letters with a magnetic calendar insert to 1,381 donors, handwritten notes to donors and donor walls. Solicitation efforts were shared, including the Founders Day Scholarship Gala, Dean’s Campaign, reunion giving, and the annual day of giving. Upcoming engagement reminders were shared. Finally, Vice Chancellor Walton shared a strategic plan update for Institutional Advancement.

**Committee on Regional Development**

Trustee Paul Tine noted that a report from Dr. Wilkins on the various initiatives for regional economic development included in Strategic Initiative #6.

Information was shared surrounding the growth strategies that were identified during the economic forum where ECSU can have a positive impact on economic growth in the region. He also reported that we are preparing an ECSU branded county by county economic status report and forecast that was developed by Dr. Nwala.

A report concerning the officers that have been elected to the board of visitors was provided. They are forming committees that are expected to parallel our efforts here at the Board of Trustees and provide opportunities for collaboration in the future.

Finally, a report on the SBTDC’s efforts in the region was shared.

**Committee on University Governance**

Trustee Johnson noted that Human Resources update was provided. The Board members received information on personnel matters. Legal Affairs gave a Campus Update. Items requiring approval of the Board were discussed in closed session.

**Chancellor’s Report**

Chancellor Karrie Dixon greeted everyone and thanked them for joining today and updates from each committee.

Chancellor Dixon noted that ECSU has been recognized for excellence in several national reports already this year. Those recognitions are as follows:

The national think tank “Third Way” ranked ECSU the #1 HBCU in the nation for helping students from lower-income households achieve economic success. That was followed up by *Student Loan Hero* naming ECSU the most affordable four-year HBCU in U.S.

Chancellor Dixon thankedthe faculty and staff who make ECSU a warm, inviting and successful place to work and learn.

In February, ECSU was notified it received accreditation from the prestigious Aviation Accreditation Board International – or AABI (abbey) – for our BS Science in Aviation Science degree. Including ECSU, only 40 aviation programs in the world have accreditation from AABI, which requires robust integrity, performance, and quality standards in order to become certified. With the General Assembly’s financial support, we have continued to expand and enhance our program such as expanding our training fleet, upgrading our labs, and recruiting talented faculty.

Enrollment has nearly tripled in a few short years, we’re building strong partnerships across the U.S., our FAA certificates are reducing time to graduation which helps our graduates get into the workforce faster – which is a win-win for both the industry and our students.

Earlier this month, ECSU renewed its agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard for the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI). CSPI provides a clear pathway for students from ECSU’s academic programs into Coast Guard service; Provides college sophomores and juniors with valuable leadership and skills while funding up to two years of college. Following graduation, CSPI students receive a guaranteed position at officer candidate school. The MOA is an example of our continued commitment to educating our students and ensuring their readiness for the workforce. Students get real-world experience, and the Coast Guard gets talent located right here in our community.

ECSU experienced another successful Founder’s Day and Gala: raising more than $117,000! Dr. Patricia “Trish” Rhyne Johnson served as the keynote for Founder’s Day Convocation.

Competition for HBCUs [only] - opportunity to raise money for our campus.

The prize money will enhance the campus (such as planting flowers) and create a relaxation spot facing the retention pond (benches, Adirondack chairs, etc.)

Top prize in each cluster is $75k, but each university in the “top 10” still get a prize

We’ve been holding steady around spot #7, so voting is important!

Voting is unlimited –

Vote online at retoolyourschool.com/vote

Vote and share on Twitter using #RYSECSU

Vote and share on Instagram using #RYSECSU

Voting ends Sunday at midnight so vote today!

Chancellor Dixon thanked the Board members for their continued support of ECSU as well as their leadership, guidance, and encouragement.

There being no further business and without objection, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwendolyn Sanders

Gwendolyn Sanders, Deputy Chief of Staff

Asst. Secretary, ECSU Board of Trustees