

## NORTH GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2015

**Call to Order:** Rebecca King called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The meeting was held on the Blairsville Campus of North Georgia Technical College.

**Members Present:** Rebecca King, Dr. Jim Wade, Jeff Gooch, Jane Brackett, Jeremy Williams, and Mark Rasmussen

**Staff Present:** Dr. Gail Thaxton, Dr. Mark Ivester, Savonda Turner, Dr. Mike King, Carol Carson, and Lorna Chapman

**Members Absent:** Rebecca Stovall, Chan Caudell, and Kathie Ivester

**Guests:** Susan Johnson and Gail Berry

**Invocation:** Jeff Gooch offered the invocation.

**Approval of Agenda:** *A motion to approve the agenda was made by Jeremy Williams, seconded by Mark Rasmussen, and approved by all.*

**Approval of Minutes:** The President's Report in the January minutes was corrected to read: Each college was requested to submit the financial findings of the impact that a name change would incur. NGTC submitted a cost estimate of \$638,870.00. *A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Dr. Jim Wade, seconded by Mark Rasmussen, and approved by all.*

**Chair Report:** Rebecca King

- Susan Johnson was a special guest who is currently studying Medical Assisting and will graduate with her diploma in August, 2015. Ms. Johnson shares her story that brought her to North Georgia Technical College.
- Savonda Turner, Information and Technology Director represented Academic Affairs in Kathie Ivester's absence.
- Thanks to Jeremy Williams who has accepted the role as the Vice Chair of the board.
- The groundbreaking for the Health Science expansion on the Blairsville campus is on Wednesday, April 29, at 11:00 am. Please contact Lorna Chapman if you plan to attend.
- The Manufacturers Appreciation Luncheon (MAW) is on April 14 in Atlanta. Three local companies are nominated: Patterson Pump, Initial's Inc., and Stovall Products. Dr. Mark Ivester commented that Stovall Products owned by Rebecca Stovall's husband, is in the process of expanding their company.
- Stan Lovell is our new Chief of Campus Police and began his duties in February. Chief Lovell served as the Chief Investigator at the Habersham County District Attorney. Additional information on Chief Lovell's wealth of experience was provided in a handout. Another change to the police department is the relocation of its offices from the Carlton Center to the Clegg building.

**Financial and Administrative Services Report:** Carol Carson

- The financial report is on track and we are working towards the close of the fiscal year. We may have some monies to spend before the close of the year on June 30.
- We are currently working on the FY 2016 budget. The Vice Presidents and Deans are meeting with their staff and faculty on equipment needs.
- Positive feedback was received from colleges that used the Higher One refund management company. One advantage for students is the choice of three refund options.
- The risk assessment audit results showed some areas for improvement and the business office is working on revising processes and procedures before the full audit this year.

- Dining Hall Food Service Manager Kathy Wrenn is retiring at the end of May. We have posted the position.
- The Blairsville Bookstore is in the process of relocating to a larger space. The old bookstore location will be remodeled into a student lounge. Board members are encouraged take a tour of the bookstore.

**Approval of Financial Report:** *A motion to approve the January Financial Report was made by Jane Brackett, seconded by Dr. Jim Wade, and approved by all.*

**Academic Affairs Report:** Savonda Turner

- The Achieving the Dream data coach Dr. John Cooper visited the Clarkesville campus for meetings with the Data Team. It was a busy two days with lots of information and best practices shared within the group.
- IT and campus police have completed the surveillance camera upgrades to the dormitory and parking lot. Dr. Jim Wade asked about the notice NGTC received that the Perkins sanctions had been lifted. We were under sanction because NGTC did not meet the benchmark for displaced homemakers enrolled in nontraditional programs for their gender for three years in a row. Through a variety of intense activities, and hiring a Special Populations Retention Coordinator, NGTC has now met the benchmark according to the AY 2014 Perkins Data Report.

**Student Affairs Report:** Dr. Mike King

- Ten Horticulture students recently competed in the 39th Annual PLANET Student Career Days competition at North Carolina State University. The students participated in all 28 of the events that highlight the industries diversity in the “green” industry. The NGTC team competed against 757 students and 65 schools from both two year and four year colleges and major Universities. NGTC finished 21<sup>th</sup> in the National ranking.
- The board discussed student loans and the escalation of defaulted loans. If the default rate increases NGTC may pull out of the loan program. Dr. Gail Thaxton commented that the financial aid landscape has changed due to Pell and Hope grants and that colleges that have pulled out of student loans have experienced an enrollment decrease. Student Affairs shall work diligently on the front end with the students but federal collections does not work aggressively on loan payback; an outside source may be beneficial to consider. It was asked how many students have loans:
  - FY11 = 28
  - FY12 = 55
  - FY13 = 240

**Economic Development Report:** Dr. Mark Ivester

- We have three students training in Bubshiem, Germany, and they will be there approximately 2.5 – 3 years.
- GED classes for Franklin County are being taught in Lavonia and the enrollment is strong. We need to secure a site for Towns County for classes to begin in July. Discussions have started in Union county to promote GED classes.
- The Economic Development Council Spring meeting is scheduled on the Clarkesville Campus on May 6. We have twenty four registrations so far that include manufacturing companies and school superintendents.
- The Carl Vinson Institute, University of Georgia, is funding a survey on the manufacturing perception of young adults in the Hart and Stephens County.

**President’s Report:** Dr. Gail Thaxton

- Dr. Gail Thaxton briefed the board on the progress and explained the concept of the Achieving the Dream initiatives. One of those initiatives is data reporting. A handout was shared on the March report of data results. It was recommended that the data reports should be shared with the high schools. A Priorities and Interventions handout was shared with the board with discussion on priority #2 of the handout, designing strategies for a success rate.

- The FY 2016 budget has passed the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Chamber. \$1,180,000 was added to NGTC for planning and design funds for the Economic Development and Manufacturing Center buildings. Board members are encouraged to thank Senator John Wilkinson for all his support with his push to assist the college with our challenge with run-down buildings built in the early 1960's.

**Approval to adjourn.** *A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff Gooch, seconded by Dr. Jim Wade, and approved by all.*

Minutes submitted by:

Approved by:

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President  
North Georgia Technical College

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Chairman of the Board of Directors  
North Georgia Technical College