

NORTH GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2017

Members Present: Chair Dr. Jeremy Williams, Vice Chair Ron Barden, Chan Caudell, Rebecca Stovall, Jane Brackett, Mitchel Barrett, Barry Roberts

Members Absent: Judge Chan Caudell

Staff Present: Dr. Mark Ivester, President; Rick Story, Vice President Economic Development; Dr. Mike King, Vice President of Student Affairs; Carol Carson, Vice President for Administrative Services; Kathie Ivester, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Cynthia Brown, Director of Institutional Advancement; and Trudi Schubring, Executive Assistant to the President.

Staff Absent: Amy Hulse

Call to Order: Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held on the Clarkesville Campus of North Georgia Technical College.

Invocation: Dr. Mike King offered the invocation.

Approval of Agenda: *There was a motion by Jane Brackett, a second by Ron Barden, and the agenda was unanimously approved.*

Approval of Minutes: *With the exception of a revision to correct the spelling of Jane Brackett's name under "Members Present", there was a motion by Ron Barden, a second by Rebecca Stovall, and the minutes from the January 25, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.*

Chair's Report:

Chair Williams welcomed community member, Maria Britt. He also welcomed Horticulture Instructor, Craig Thurmond, and horticulture students, Johnny Payne, Christian Nelms, and Michael Pundt.

Craig Thurmond reported that he and John Mather (Lab Assistant), along with seven students recently returned from a hands-on, behind-the-scenes horticulture field trip to Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida. In addition to learning about processes and design principles, students learned about internship and career opportunities. The group also toured Cherrylake Tree Farm, the world's largest producer of trees. The trip was made possible by funds the students raised at their recent NGTC horticulture plant sale on the Clarkesville campus.

Public Relations Report: A formal presentation was not given, and members were encouraged to review the board report and press releases contained in the board notebook. President Ivester took the opportunity to encourage board members to contact him anytime questions or concerns arise related to NGTC-related articles in their local newspaper.

Administrative Services Report: Carol Carson, Vice President for Administrative Services, provided an update on the financials and activities in the Administrative Services area. Further detail is included in the board materials.

- NGTC is at 58.3% of the year. Revenue collections from tuitions and fees are at 95% of the projected budget. The budget was projected for Fall and Spring on an enrollment of 2,500, taking 9 hours on average. The college was able to exceed that number, thus providing extra dollars, which can be utilized for unanticipated needs not included in the original budget. Ms. Carson noted that as enrollment increases, so do auxiliary services, such as the bookstore, dining hall, etc., which generates additional revenue.

- Training continues on Concur, the new travel system. NGTC implemented the system in November and Business Office staff have scheduled additional training sessions for employees on all three campuses.
- The walls of the new swing building to house HVAC during construction of the new Economic Development Center are targeted for completion by mid-February.

A motion to affirm the January financial report was made by Barry Roberts, seconded by Jane Brackett, and unanimously approved.

Academic Affairs Report: Kathie Ivester, Vice President of Academic Affairs, provided a brief update as follows. Additional details and updates are provided in the board materials.

- NGTC's Institutional Profile for General Information and Enrollment for Fall 2016 was submitted to SACSCOC.
- The Perkins Data Report from TCSG has been received. NGTC met all established benchmarks and will not need to submit an improvement plan.
- Key staff from Academic Affairs and Student Affairs will attend the 2017 DREAM Conference in San Francisco next week. Dr. Ivester will also be attending the annual conference.
- The Rick Perkins and GOAL Regional Competition is scheduled for February 28, 2017 at the Lanier Tech Forsyth Campus. Ms. Ivester extended the college's appreciation to Vice Chair Ron Barden for his service as a judge in the competition.

Economic Development and Adult Education Report: Rick Story, Vice President of Economic Development, provided a brief update as follows. Additional details and updates are included in the board materials.

- NGTC has served 948 Adult Education students since July. 704 students have remained in class for twelve hours or longer at sixteen class locations within the service area.
- Nominees for the 2017 Manufacturer of the Year (MAW) award this year are: 1) Atlanta Rod, 2) Eaton Aerospace, and 3) Freudenberg NOK. The awards ceremony is scheduled for April 27, 2017 in Atlanta.

Student Affairs Report: Dr. Mike King, Vice President of Student Affairs, provided a brief update as follows. Additional details and updates are provided in the board materials.

- 2,626 students are enrolled for Spring term, representing an increase of 2.5% over the previous year. Of that amount, 403 are Move on When Ready (MOWR) students.
- Dr. King provided a breakdown of financial aid (refer to board report for details).
- Commencement services were conducted on January 26, 2017, with 110 students participating in the event. This number represents approximately half of the students eligible to participate.
- NGTC hosted the SkillsUSA high school competition on February 2, 2017. This is a great opportunity to host such a large number of high school students on campus.

Following Dr. King's report, the Board inquired as to the lack of student participation in the commencement service. The question was raised if anything could be done (on the Board's part) to encourage and promote increased participation. Dr. King shared some of the reasons many students do not participate, such as work commitments, relocation, lack of interest, etc.

Dr. King reported staff are looking at alternative venues for the graduation event, as the college has outgrown the venue used for the past several years, The Torch. NGTC is grateful for The Torch's past partnership to provide the venue and will keep the Board updated on future venues.

President's Report:

- President Ivester thanked Vice Chair Barden and Judge Caudell for their participation in Commencement.
- The Executive Team recently returned from a two-day planning session in Blue Ridge, where they reviewed TCSG goals and benchmarks, budgets, programs and other initiatives to move the college forward. Additionally, the team completed development of the 2018 Strategic Plan during the work session.
- President Ivester announced NGTC's decision to discontinue the Student Loan Program. NGTC has had a substantial number of students who have taken out federal loans. Approximately 25% of the students who have entered repayment status are now delinquent in making payments. He explained that when a default rate approaches or is over 30% for the year, the college can be sanctioned, and may lose the ability to participate in not only the loan program but also PELL, Federal work-Study, and FSEOG programs. Dr. Ivester has communicated the school's decision to the TCSG office and they are in support.

Dr. Ivester further commented that in addition to jeopardizing the school, the loan program can be a disservice to the student, as many times they leave school with a mountain of debt. While the decision to discontinue the loan program may affect the Fall Term with decreased enrollment, staff are prepared to increase efforts to maintain enrollment numbers. Following discussion, the Board agreed that discontinuing the loan program is the right move for NGTC. Dr. Ivester noted that the NGTC Foundation is strong and will work to help bridge the gap.

- Dr. Ivester provided an update from the current legislative session:
 - HB 114 prohibits high schools from excluding Move on When Ready (MOWR) students from valedictorian or salutatorian eligibility.
 - HB 179, HB 222, HB 269, and SB 114 pertain to HOPE eligibility for certain populations (e.g. home study, military personnel, children of public officials killed in the line of duty)
 - HB 307 provides for in-state tuition for homeless and foster children.
 - HB 280 allows for campus carry of weapons, except at facilities used for sporting events and preschool.
 - SB 82 would establish a needs-based HOPE scholarship and grant.
 - SB 3 establishes the Creating Opportunities Needed Now to Expand Credentialed Training (CONNECT) Act to provide for industry credentialing for 6-12 graders. TCSG would work with Georgia Department of Education to review industry credentials for programs of study.
 - Senate Bill 97 expands Georgia Child Care Plan child care subsidies from 1-2 years for parents in job training or education program
- Recent & Upcoming Activities:
 - Dr. Ivester is continuing his initiative to meet with school superintendents and college presidents in the service area. Most recently he met with Toccoa Falls College President, Dr. Robert Myers, and White County Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Wilson.
 - A joint meeting with TCSG Presidents and USG Universities is scheduled on March 6, 2017. Governor Deal is scheduled to provide remarks.
 - Dr. Ivester encouraged the board's attendance at the second annual *Trebles & Truffles* event on March 24, 2017 at the Currahee Campus. Dr. Jim Wade and the Toccoa Symphony will provide the music. Invitations are forthcoming. The proceeds from this year's event will be designated to fund the engineering students' upcoming study abroad experience in Ireland. The total cost per student is approximately \$4,500 and this will help to defray the expense and make it more affordable for the students.
 - The groundbreaking event for the new Industrial Technology Center on the Clarkesville Campus is confirmed for Wednesday, April 19, 2017 @ 10:00 am. Invitations will be mailed. TCSG Commissioner Corbin and Governor Deal are scheduled to attend, with Governor Deal providing the keynote remarks.
 - Dr. Ivester will meet with the new Plant Manager of Ethicon, Mrs. Kennon Yori, on March 2, 2017. Ethicon is one of the largest employers in Habersham County.

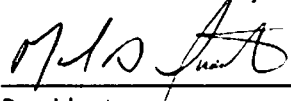
Following brief discussion, the recommendation was made to cancel the March board meeting, as there are no action items or pressing business on the schedule. The board is on target to meet the required number of board meetings during the academic year.

There was a motion by Ron Barden, a second by Rebecca Stovall, and the motion was unanimously approved to cancel the March 22, 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

There being no further business or discussion, Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm. The next meeting is a combined meeting with the Foundation Board of Trustees and the Local Board of Directors on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 @ 12:00 noon in the Ramsey Hunter Dining Hall Annex on the Clarkesville campus.

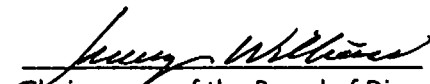
Approval to Adjourn: *A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Barden, seconded by Jan Brackett, and approved by all.*

Minutes submitted by:



President
North Georgia Technical College

Approved by:



Chairperson of the Board of Directors
North Georgia Technical College