



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Gaines Technology Center  
February 4, 2016  
12:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Dr. Paul Baltz, Doug Cox, Sue Gibson, Leo Baltz, Carolyn Collins and Dr. Eric Turner. Members absent: Ray Noel and Ruth Ann Ellis. Guests present: Ryan Bowman of the Friday Firm in Little Rock, Angie Caldwell, Karen Liebhaber, Rhonda Stone, and Martha Nelson. Vickie French was present to record the minutes of the meeting.

Chair Dr. Paul Baltz welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion by Sue Gibson to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2015 meeting as read. Motion seconded by Carolyn Collins. Unanimous.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Fire Tower**

Dr. Eric Turner informed members the final drawings are supposed to be ready for final review by February 8, 2016, and subsequently be ready for the bidding process. There were several loose ends remaining on the design at the January meeting and particular details in the design needed to be finalized to avoid potential change orders.

**Campus Security Efforts**

Dr. Turner updated members on the ongoing campus security efforts being made since his arrival in 2014 and since the recent active shooter false alarm. The Emergency Response Team meets regularly to revise the emergency response plan. Recommendations are being implemented as rapidly as possible.

Progress to date includes: regular active shooter training; desk phones are equipped with speed dial to Campus PD; the RAVE Alert system has been enhanced to include the Panic Button application for cell phones which will be operational after testing.

Interior signage is being addressed with the addition of flagsticks above the doors which will be visible for the first responders. The Health Science Complex is the first building to receive these and Ronnie Walker and Trent Ingram have diligently been working on this project building by building. Efforts are underway to begin addressing the outside signage too.

First responders have and will continue to train in our buildings in order to provide them familiarity with our buildings and grounds along with names and faces.

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In December, Dr. Turner asked the Campus PD, LETA, and Fire Science crews to serve on an *ad hoc* task force to provide additional recommendations and analysis for the Emergency Response Team to review and implement.

Strategic planning: The initial dialogue has been robust, and the campus feedback and input has been encouraging. We will be seeking your input as board members very soon. It is our intention to present the Strategic Plan to you at the August board meeting; once you approve the plan, we will commence on developing the action plans which accompany the broader defined strategies.

**Capital Projects Committee Recommendations**

Doug Cox, Chair of the Capital Projects Committee, reported that in consultation with Stephen's Inc. and because of the timing of the loan closure on the Health Science Complex, the committee advises no action or further consideration be taken on the refinancing of the 2010 bonds until sometime in the fall of 2016.

The committee also recommends a resolution authorizing the college administration to offer the Aviation Building for sale at a price of \$445,000.

Unanimous approval by board members to accept the Capital Projects Committee's recommendations.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**K-12 Collaboration**

Angie Caldwell and Dr. Turner have visited with high school representatives regarding dual enrollment for juniors and seniors interested in technical education. Initial pathways identified for students include Industrial Technology and Healthcare.

**Workforce Grant**

A grant writer is preparing a Workforce Implementation Grant seeking funding for the K12 collaboration with area high schools to provide workforce training for high school students. This is a collaborative project between ASU-Newport, Arkansas Northeastern College, and Black River Technical College.

**"Passport" Initiative**

Dr. Turner stated Dr. Roger Johnson is attending a meeting at ADHE today as the College is a part of a pilot "Passport" initiative designed to facilitate the ease of transfer between institutions.

**Associate in Science in Agriculture**

The ADHE Coordinating Board approved the Associate in Science in Agriculture at the January 29, 2016, meeting. Students completing this degree will be able to transfer seamlessly to ASU-Jonesboro to complete a BS in Agriculture. Classes will begin with the Fall 2016 semester. The efforts by Regina Moore, Donna Statler, and Rex Flagg to take this from its conception to final approval should be commended.

**National Science Foundation**

Rex Flagg, Rickie Gunn, Karen Liebhaber, and Dr. Johnson attended a National Science Foundation workshop to develop a grant which will add components to support the Associate of Science in Agriculture and make it even more attractive by allowing stop-outs, and enabling students to earn certificates in such areas as Ag welding, electronics, precision ag, etc.

**FISCAL AFFAIRS**

**Bond Resolution: Health Science Complex**

Ryan Bowman was present to explain the document which is necessary to issue a Student Fee Revenue Bond to secure permanent financing. The permanent financing will be provided by the Rural Development office of the United States Department of Agriculture, and will retire the Board's Student Fee Revenue Bond issued July 30, 2014, which provided interim financing during construction. The amount of the permanent financing is \$8,475,000. Doug Cox moved the Board of Trustees of Black River Technical College authorize the issuance of a Student Fee Revenue Bond for the purpose of providing permanent financing for a portion of the costs of capital improvements for Black River Technical College; providing for the payment of the principal of and interest on the bond; and prescribing other matters pertaining thereto. Motion seconded by Leo Baltz. Unanimous.

**Expense Reimbursement for Board of Trustees Members**

Leo Baltz moved the Board of Trustees of Black River Technical College authorize expense reimbursement for each board member performing official duties during the calendar year January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. Motion seconded by Carolyn Collins. Unanimous.

**Annual Certification of Solvency**

Rhonda Stone stated that to be in compliance with AR Code Annotated Section 6-62-109 (Annual Certification of Solvency), we must certify to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and the Legislative Council that as of December 31, 2015, Black River Technical College had sufficient appropriations and funds available, or that will become available, to meet all current and anticipated obligations during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, for the payment of all obligations when they become due. A letter was prepared for signatures by Dr. Turner and Chair Dr. Paul Baltz to be mailed to DFA stating such.

**Comparison of FY15 to FY16 Operating Budget to Actual**

Mrs. Stone provided detailed comparison information for the Operating E & G – Fund 1 account; a comparison of FY 15 to FY 16.

**Auxiliary Comparative Statement of Revenues and Expenses**

Also provided were comparative revenues and expenses for the Auxiliary – Fund 3 account for the periods ended December 31, 2014 and 2015.

## **INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT**

### **Black History Month**

Karen Liebhaber invited members and guests to the Black History Month event scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the RCDC. Guest speaker will be Rodney Harris, University of Arkansas doctoral candidate. His presentation is entitled: *Spokesmen for Their Race: African-American Political Involvement in Arkansas from 1868 - 1893.*

### **BRTC Foundation Gala**

The annual BRTC Foundation Gala is scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2016, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at RHCC. Tickets are now available at \$80 per person. Please contact the Institutional Advancement office for your ticket.

### **Donors and Scholars Luncheon**

Plans are underway for the Donors and Scholars Luncheon scheduled Tuesday, April 12, 2016, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the RCDC. There will be a program as in previous years. Please make plans to attend this important event.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

### **Enrollment and Retention**

Martha Nelson shared comparative information from Fall 2012 – Spring 2016 for first time admits and transfers by age range.

### **Enrollment Patterns**

Daniel Parker, Director of Planning, Research and Assessment, shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding enrollment patterns since 2012. Dr. Turner said this data is used to develop forecasts for budgeting, strategic planning, enrollment projections, and academic programming.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Sue Gibson to adjourn into executive session. Motion seconded by Carolyn Collins. Unanimous.

Motion by Sue Gibson to resume regular session. Motion seconded by Carolyn Collins. Unanimous.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Sue Gibson to adjourn at 2:25 p.m. Motion seconded by Carolyn Collins. Unanimous.

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**Ray A. Noel, Secretary**

Also attending:

Alan Decker  
Janna Guthrey  
Shannon Ogden  
Donna Statler

Phillip Dickson  
Ramonda Housh  
Anne Simpson  
Priscilla Stillwell

Sissy Gray  
Brittany Lawrence  
Brandon Smith  
- *Star Herald*