



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Gaines Technology Center Conference Room  
February 5, 2015  
12:00 p.m.**

Members present: Sue Gibson, Dr. Paul Baltz, Doug Cox, John Jackson, Ray Noel, Leo Baltz, and Dr. Eric Turner. Member absent: Ruth Ann Ellis. Guests present: Angie Caldwell, Dr. Roger Johnson, Martha Nelson, Brenda Gillogly, and Karen Liebhaber. Vickie French was present to record the minutes of the meeting.

Sue Gibson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by John Jackson to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Doug Cox. Unanimous.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Health Science Complex**

Dr. Eric Turner reported the exterior framing on the Health Science Complex is now complete; the stairways are installed with interior framing now occurring. The exterior and roof sheathing is being installed and the plumbing and electrical rough-ins are continuing. The project remains under budget.

**Center for Public Safety**

The tour of three campuses offering emergency preparedness training took place the first week in January. Steve Shults, Alan Haskins, and Dr. Turner toured facilities at Indian River State College, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, and the training ground for the Louisiana State Police. Dr. Turner stated the trip helped all three conceptualize how an interdisciplinary approach towards emergency/first responder training might work.

Each will be traveling to Washington the end of February for a FEMA workshop and have appointments with U.S. Senator Boozman, a representative in U. S. Representative Crawford's office and several different federal agencies seeking additional funding and possible contractual training possibilities. FEMA will be reimbursing the travel costs.

**Legislative Updates**

Dr. Turner reported on bills currently being watched closely:

1. HB1080 :: Legislation requiring all executive sessions to be recorded and forwarded to the prosecuting attorney if the legality of an executive session is under investigation.
2. HB1077 :: Legislation allowing any faculty or staff possessing a conceal carry permit to carry a firearm on campus. This bill is expected to be discussed today in the House education committee. The last report indicated the votes were close in the House committee with discussion of the Senate not being interested in taking the bill any further.

3. There will be some sort of changes (amount of award, time of the award, eligibility) on the Academic Challenge Scholarship, but how it will affect us at this juncture is uncertain, simply because of the myriad of proposals floating around.
4. SB212 :: Programs at two-year colleges must be college courses or workforce readiness courses which lead to a high school diploma or enrollment in postsecondary education program, including certification programs. The costs would be paid by the district unless a MOU stipulates the district, College, and student share the expenses.

#### **FISCAL AFFAIRS**

##### **Expense Reimbursement for Board of Trustees**

Motion by Dr. Paul Baltz that the Black River Technical College Board of Trustees authorizes expense reimbursement for each board member performing official board duties during the calendar year January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. Motion seconded by Doug Cox. Unanimous.

##### **Financial Statements through December 2014**

Members were provided the Financial Statements for Operating Budget – Fund 1 and the Auxiliary Budget – Fund 3 as of December 31, 2014. Comparison data was provided for FY14 as of 12/31/2013 to FY15 as of 12/31/14 for each fund.

#### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

##### **AS in Fire Science Administration**

Angie Caldwell informed the Board a letter of notification has been forwarded to ADHE for the approval of an AS in Fire Science Administration Degree option. The degree will consist of 38 general education courses and 22 fire science courses offered online and taught by Alan Haskins. There are plans to advertise the degree option in certain national publications reaching many potential students. The degree is offered to individuals for advancement purposes within their field. MOU's have been signed with the University of Memphis and Arkansas State University.

##### **Resource Assistant in Program Completion**

Mrs. Caldwell highlighted the positive outcomes of the Resource Assistant in Program Completion held by Mylea White and funded through Carl Perkins. Technical instructors refer students to Mrs. White when difficult or unexpected issues occur. Mrs. White has been instrumental in increasing retention and completion as data reflected. A video, which was produced in house using equipment in the Distance Education media room, was also presented to members and guests.

##### **Nursing Passage Rates**

Mrs. Caldwell reported that the PN graduates have a 100 percent passage rate on their NCLEX exams. There have been 35 of the 38 RN graduates who have tested averaging a 92.1 percent passage rate. Mrs. Caldwell has learned that one of the remaining three has since passed the exam.

**MOU with UA-Fort Smith for Criminal Justice**

Dr. Roger Johnson reported that MOU's with the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith and Arkansas State University – Jonesboro have been signed with our proposed AS degree in Criminal Justice. A Letter of Notification to ADHE of the change from AAS to an AS in Criminal Justice has been submitted. This change will allow students completing this degree at BRTC to transfer to either institution to complete a BS in Criminal Justice. The degree can be obtained online and therefore, addresses the issue of opportunity.

Dr. Johnson stated that BRTC is also exploring the possibility of implementing advance degree opportunities in the fields of teaching and agriculture.

**LETA Program**

Dr. Johnson reported the spring LETA class has 51 new cadets creating a strain on funds for supplies and our students/instructor ratio. As a result, a half-time adjunct instructor has been hired to assist the staff as well as taking advantage of the many agencies that send their employees (over 90) each semester at no cost to the college.

**Spanish Instructor**

An instructor has been hired to teach Spanish for credit, at both the Pocahontas and Paragould campus sites. Karen Marlow will also teach non-credit Spanish through community education.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Enrollment Update**

Martha Nelson reported the official spring enrollment of 1,782 is a decrease from last spring of 209 students. A detailed comparison of enrollment data was presented from 2006 – 2015 for the spring and 2005 – 2014 for the fall semesters. A decrease in enrollment is seen statewide in all higher education institutions. Several options are being explored to increase enrollment numbers at BRTC on both campuses.

**Delta Dental of Arkansas Grant**

Amanda Dobbs announced the successful outcome of a Delta Dental Grant for \$12,500 awarded to the BRTC Foundation. It is the first college program funded; this initial funding will be piloted with Black River to help students get the dental care they need.

Since this is a charitable endeavor, the exams should be a donated service by the participating dentist(s). The dental service costs will follow Delta's PPO fee schedule. Students will fill out applications for services to be evaluated by a committee. Details are still being finalized.

**INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT**

**"Growing Strong 2015" Annual Campaign**

Karen Liebhaber provided members with comparison data for the growing campaign since its inception. The campaign runs from July 1 – June 30 of each year. To date giving is greater than all the previous years at \$46,856.95.

**Living History Tribute to Maya Angelou**

Members and guests were invited to the presentation by Dr. Gwendolyn Twillie in partnership with the Eddie Mae Herron Center on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. in the RCDC.

**BRTC Foundation Gala**

Mrs. Liebhaber said plans are underway for the annual BRTC Foundation Gala scheduled for Saturday evening, March 7, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Rolling Hills Country Club.

**Scholars and Donors Reception**

In an effort to show our appreciation to all who give to the college/foundation (not just those designating scholarships), a Scholars and Donors Reception is planned for Thursday, April 2, 2015, from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. More information will follow as all the details are finalized.

**Looney Tavern Pavilion**

Jack and Christina French have donated property next to the Looney Tavern on 11 Point River for a pavilion to be built. The architect has the documents ready for advertisement for bid with plans to begin construction in March.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Next Meeting Date**

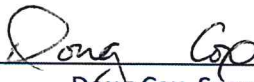
The next meeting date of the BRTC Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2015, beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the Gaines Technology Center Conference Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Doug Cox to adjourn at 1:40 p.m. Motion seconded by Dr. Paul Baltz. Unanimous.

Also attending the meeting:

Norma Ashburn	Kimberly Bigger	Christina Derbes
Amanda Dobbs	Julie Edington	Billie Fry
Amber Green	Janna Guthrey	Tonya Hankins
Ramonda Housh	Susan Johnson with the <i>Pocahontas Star Herald</i>	
Regina Moore	Kathy Murdock	Shannon Ogden
Ann Savage	Anne Simpson	Betty White

  
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Doug Cox, Secretary

February 12, 2015