

**Minutes of the
Gaston College
Board of Trustees Meeting
Myers Center, Section C
November 18, 2024**

Members Present: Mr. John Dancoff, Chair
Judge Jesse Caldwell, Vice Chair
Mr. Bill Carstarphen
Mr. Alan Cloninger
Dr. Shawnya Gore, Secretary
Mr. Steve Hall
Ms. Iris Hopper
Ms. Resa Hoyle
Mr. Steve Huffstetler
Mr. Tom Keigher
Mr. David Lee
Ms. Janie Peak
Ms. Julie Stroupe
Ms. Autumn Queen, SGA President

Dr. John Hauser, President

Members Absent: Mr. Jonathan Fletcher

Others Present: Ms. Shelly Alman, Mr. Todd Baney, Dr. Jeff Booker, Ms. Tonia Broome, Ms. Jasmine Cox-Wade, Dr. Dewey Dellinger, Mr. Chris Elmore, Dr. Daniel Freeman, Ms. Guyann Howe, Dr. Zachary Kendra-Dill, Ms. Meagan Lingerfelt, Ms. Joanne Matz, Ms. La'Shelle McClain, Mr. Rico McIlwain, Dr. Jennifer Nichols, Ms. Julie Ostrowski, Mr. Jeff Pruett, Mr. Stephen Sharp, Dr. Audrey Sherrill, Mr. Greg Smith, and Dr. Heather Woodson

Chair Dancoff called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was present for the meeting.

- **Invocation – Ms. Stroupe**

- **Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder**

Chair Dancoff reminded Trustees of the ethics requirements of public servants and requested they identify any conflicts of interest or appearance of conflicts of interest present. No conflicts were identified.

A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Dancoff asked if there were any changes, additions, or corrections to the agenda. None were identified.

Ms. Hoyle moved to approve the agenda; Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM:

1. September 23, 2024, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Chair Dancoff presented the Minutes of the September 23, 2024, Board of Trustees Minutes; he asked if there were any additions or corrections. None were identified.

Mr. Cloninger moved to approve the Minutes of the September 23, 2024, Board of Trustees Meeting; Ms. Peak seconded the motion. The motion carried.

C. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Hauser welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Mr. Chris Elmore, President, Foundation Board of Directors, Mr. Jeffrey Pruett, Faculty Senate President, and Ms. La'Shelle McClain, Staff Senate President.

1. Ms. Julie Stroupe– Statement of Economic Impact (SEI), Possible Conflict of Interest

Chair Dancoff shared that due to Ms. Stroupe's reappointment, she was required to file another Statement of Economic Impact (SEI), and by law, we are required to notify the Board about Ms. Stroupe's potential conflict of interest. The letter from the NC State Ethics Commission states:

We did not find an actual conflict of interest but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The identified potential conflict does not prohibit service to this entity.

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Ms. Stroupe is an At Large member of the Board of Trustees. She is a senior virtual banker with Truist Bank. Because Truist Bank could seek to do business with the College, Ms. Stroupe has the potential for a conflict of interest. Accordingly, she should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of her public duties should Truist come before the Board for official action.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Judge Caldwell and Mr. Baney presented the following policy change:

1. Policy 6-17, Vehicle Use

Gaston College maintains liability insurance through Utica. As part of a recent review, Utica requested that the college have a vehicle use policy, sometimes referred to as a fleet policy.

Mr. Baney highlighted two additional clarifications, marked in red, on the first page of the policy. These changes were made based on the recommendations of the Administrative Services Committee. He also pointed out the inclusion of the Rhinobus Program and its guidelines in the policy, as well as the requirement for a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Release Consent Form.

Upon recommendation of the Administrative Services Committee, Judge Caldwell moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approve the proposed Policy 6-17 Vehicle Use, as presented.

As the motion came from Committee, a second was not required. Chair Dancoff asked if there was any discussion.

The motion carried.

2. Editorial, Procedure, and EWD Integrity Plan Updates

Judge Caldwell explained that as per Policy 1-1, Policy Development and Implementation, the Gaston College Board of Trustees is responsible for approving all College policies, and the President is responsible for approving procedures to support College policies.

The following policies have proposed editorial and procedural changes, which have been reviewed by the College's Policy Review Committee (which includes members from various departments of the college) and approved by the President.

- a. Policy 2-4, Institutional Planning and Effectiveness
- b. Policy 4-18, Student Final Grade Appeal
- c. Policy 4-29, Grading
- d. Policy 5-49, Libraries and Other Learning Resources
- e. Policy 5-100, Economic and Workforce Development
- f. Policy 5-106, Continuing Education Criteria for Course Continuation
- g. Policy 5-109, Economic and Workforce Development Self-Supporting Course and Program Guidelines
- h. Policy 5-112, Work-Based Learning
- i. Economic and Workforce Development Accountability and Integrity Plan

Judge Caldwell referenced several changes mandated by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges, including the addition of two new grades to the Grading Policy 4-29: Emergency Incomplete and Emergency Withdrawal. He also noted that the final item, related to the Economic and Workforce Development Accountability and Integrity Plan, reflects required changes in accordance with the North Carolina State Board of Community College Code (1D SBCCC300.4).

The editorial and procedural changes are noted in red on each policy and are provided to the Administrative Services Committee and the Board of Trustees as information. Pending any further suggestions or changes, the procedural changes will be effective November 18, 2024.

These items were for information only; no action was required.

E. ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Ms. Peak explained and reviewed the following:

1. Termination of Health and Fitness Science Associate in Applied Science Degree (A45630)

The Division of Academic Affairs is proposing to terminate the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Health and Fitness Science. Each year, faculty and leaders in curriculum programs complete program reviews to review enrollment, student retention and credential completion, post-completion student outcomes, and program viability. The AAS program was created to allow students to earn the credential needed to enter a bachelor's program in Exercise Science. However, recent program reviews show that only one of the 29 AAS program completers over the past five years have transferred and completed a bachelor's degree in exercise science (one additional student did complete a bachelor's degree in nursing). The majority of students over the past five years have completed multiple certificates and entered the workforce (111 students). Additionally, program review shows that current program costs exceed revenue from FTE. As an example, the 2023-2024 GC Fact Book shows a loss of over \$181,000 in this program. Due to these significant revenue and post-completion student outcomes results, the Academic Affairs Division proposes to terminate the AAS program and create a diploma in Health and Fitness Science. All current certificates will be embedded in this diploma program with the exception of the current group exercise certificate (this certificate will be eliminated). As a part of this proposed AAS degree termination and diploma creation, three health and fitness science (HFS) classes will be eliminated from the College catalog (HFS 116, HFS 118, and HFS 120). Required general education courses will be reduced from 24 hours to nine hours. The diploma will require completion of 14 courses with eight of these courses used in other programs, such as the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science.

There is no anticipated negative impact on the budget. All faculty, equipment, and supplies will be used by the College in the diploma program. We anticipate a positive impact on program viability (costs versus revenue) due to the elimination of three HFS courses from the catalog.

Upon the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Ms. Peak moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approves the termination of the Health and Fitness Science AAS Program as presented.

As the motion came from Committee, a second was not required. Chair Dancoff asked if there was any discussion.

The motion carried.

2. Termination of Human Services Technology Addiction and Recovery Studies Associate in Applied Science Degree (A4538E)

Gaston College currently has two Human Services Technology programs. The general track in Human Services Technology (A45380) and a second program in Human Services Technology Addiction and Recovery Studies (A4538E). The Division of Academic Affairs is proposing to

terminate the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Human Services Technology Addiction and Recovery Studies.

Over the past 18 months, the Human Services Technology curriculum has undergone a major revision at the state level including a name change to Social and Human Services (effective for Fall 2025) and many revised and new courses. This revision also created a more comprehensive focus for the generalist program with coursework in human services, social work, addiction and recovery, mental health, gerontology, and intellectual/developmental disabilities. Due to the comprehensive focus of the revised parent program, this will allow future Gaston College graduates of the program to serve in a variety of jobs in the social and human services field including addiction and recovery. Therefore, a specific focus on addiction and recovery within a second program is not needed at this time. The College will maintain the general track in Social and Human Services.

There is no anticipated negative impact on the budget. All faculty, equipment, and supplies will be used by the College in the general Social and Human Services program. We anticipate a positive impact on program viability (costs versus revenue) due to the elimination of four addiction and recovery courses from the catalog.

Upon the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Ms. Peak moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approves the termination of the Human Services Technology Addiction and Recovery Studies AAS program as presented.

As the motion came from Committee, a second was not required. Chair Dancoff asked if there was any discussion.

The motion carried.

3. Termination of Supply Chain Management Associate in Applied Science Degree (A25620)

Gaston College currently has two Business Administration-related programs. The general track in Business Administration (A25120) and a second program in Supply Chain Management (A25620). The Division of Academic Affairs is proposing to terminate the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Supply Chain Management.

This degree program has been inactive due to lack of full-time faculty expertise in supply chain management since the retirement of faculty member James (Jim) Sisk in 2018. Since that time, part-time faculty have been used to teach classes for a certificate in supply chain management, however, due to their limited availability, all supply chain management classes required for the AAS program cannot be offered in a timely fashion for student progression. Therefore, the Division of Academic Affairs proposes to terminate the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Supply Chain Management.

There is no anticipated impact on the budget. No full-time faculty are currently employed in this program. Part-time faculty will be used in the Business Administration program, as applicable.

Upon the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Ms. Peak moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approves the termination of Supply Chain Management AAS program as presented.

As the motion came from Committee, a second was not required. Chair Dancoff asked if there was any discussion.

The motion carried.

4. Termination of Office Administration Associate in Applied Science Degree (A25370)

Gaston College currently has an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Office Administration. Over the past five years, FTE generation has been declining, as follows:

2019-20: 27.47

2020-21: 31.06

2021-22: 25.56

2022-23: 22.31

2023-24: 18.22

The Division of Academic Affairs proposes to terminate the existing Office Administration program due to declining enrollment, as well as advisory committee and student feedback. Alternatively, a new track in Office Management will be created within the existing Business Administration program. Due to the changes in the typical office environment, the need for a stronger cross curriculum program containing Business courses and information technology courses, as well as office administration courses, is essential for graduate success. The Business Administration Office Management track will also allow better cross utilization courses between programmatic areas.

There is no anticipated impact on the budget. Two full-time faculty will continue to teach office administration or business courses at the College. One faculty member will transition to the Arts and Sciences Division to teach English courses as she has dual credentials in office administration and English.

Upon the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Ms. Peak moved that the Gaston College Board of Trustees approves the termination of the Office Administration AAS program as presented.

As the motion came from Committee, a second was not required. Chair Dancoff asked if there was any discussion.

The motion carried.

F. FINANCE AND FACILITIES

Ms. Stroupe summarized the following items:

1. American Rescue Plan Act Subaward Agreement with Gaston County

Gaston County is sub-awarding \$2,828,300 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funds received via the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) to Gaston College to begin upgrades to the College's existing aging steam lines on the Dallas Campus. The original funding of \$3.2 million is less funds already spent by the County working with engineers assessing the scope and extent of work needed. The attached draft agreement establishes the terms and conditions for the subaward.

Since Gaston College is considered a subrecipient, Gaston County Finance completed a risk assessment of noncompliance (low, moderate, or high) with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward for the purposes of determining the appropriate subrecipient monitoring needed. Gaston College was determined to be a low risk as the College demonstrates the ability to properly manage funds. The concern is completing the project by the performance period end of December 31, 2026.

Article I. Overview

- Gaston County serves as a pass-through entity.
- Gaston College will be a subrecipient.
- Agreement is funded by a portion of the funds allocated to the County by the Coronavirus State Local Fiscal Recovery Fund created under section 603 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
- Federal regulations require the County to provide the Subrecipient with specific information about this subaward as can be seen in Exhibit A (Subaward Data) attached to the agreement.
- Agreement shall govern the performance of the parties for the period November 18, 2024 through December 31, 2026,
- unless earlier terminated by either party in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

Article II. Scope of Funded Activities

- Subrecipient shall perform all activities described in the scope of activities in Exhibit B ("Approved Activities")
- Subrecipient shall perform the Approved Activities in accordance with the program budget as approved by the County in Exhibit C ("Approved Budget")
- Subrecipient may not transfer allocated funds among cost categories within a budgeted program account or make any changes to the program without the prior written approval of the County.

Article III. Compensation

- County agrees to reimburse Subrecipient for costs actually incurred and paid by Subrecipient in accordance with the Approved Budget
- The payment of funds to Subrecipient under the terms of this Agreement shall be contingent on the receipt of such funds by County from the ARP/CSLFRF and shall be subject to Subrecipient's continued eligibility to receive funds under the applicable provisions of state and federal laws. If the amount of funds that County receives from the ARP/CSLFRF is reduced, County may reduce the amount of funds awarded under this Agreement or terminate this Agreement.

Article IV. Financial Accountability and Grant Administration

- Subrecipient shall maintain a financial management system and financial records related to all transactions with Program Funds.
- County shall only reimburse Subrecipient for documented expenditures incurred during the Agreement Term.

Article VII. Default and Termination

- **Termination for Cause.** County may terminate this Agreement for cause after three (3) days written notice. Cause may include misuse of funds, fraud, lack of compliance with applicable rules, laws, and regulations, failure to perform on time, or failure to comply with any of the requirements of this Agreement.
- **Termination Without Cause.** County may terminate this Agreement for any reason, in its sole discretion, by providing Subrecipient with thirty (30) days prior written notice.
- **Termination by Mutual Agreement.** County and Subrecipient may agree to terminate this Agreement for their mutual convenience through a written amendment to this Agreement. The amendment will state the effective date of the termination

Article VIII. General Conditions

- **Indemnification.** To the extent permitted by law, Subrecipient agrees to indemnify and hold harmless County, any of its officers, agents, and employees, and the Federal Government from any claims of third parties arising out of any act or omission of Subrecipient in connection with the performance of this Agreement.
- **Insurance.** Subrecipient must maintain insurance policies with minimum limits as follows:
 - i. Commercial General Liability Insurance with a total limit of \$1,000,000 each occurrence for bodily injury and property damage.
 - ii. Business Automobile Liability Insurance providing limits at least in the amount of \$1,000,000 each accident, Combined Single Limits.
 - iii. Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability Insurance covering all the Subrecipient's employees involved in the performance of this Agreement providing the required statutory benefits under North Carolina Workers' Compensation Law and Employers Liability Insurance providing limits at least in the amount of \$500,000 each accident for bodily injury by accident, \$500,000 each employee for bodily injury by disease and \$500,000 policy limit.
- **Venue and Jurisdiction.** County and Subrecipient agree that they executed and performed this Agreement in Gaston County, North Carolina.
- **Nonwaiver.** No action or failure to act by County constitutes a waiver of any of its rights or remedies that arise out of this Agreement, nor shall such action or failure to act constitute approval of or acquiescence in a breach of this Agreement, except as specifically agreed in writing.
- **Limitation of County Authority.** Nothing contained in this Agreement may be deemed or construed to in any way stop, limit, or impair County from exercising or performing any regulatory, policing, legislative, governmental, or other powers or functions.
- **Severability.** If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be unenforceable in a judicial proceeding, the remainder of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect to the extent permitted by law.
- **Assignment.** Subrecipient may not assign or delegate any of its rights or duties that arise out of this Agreement without County's prior written consent.

- **Integration.** This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter of this Agreement.
- **Notices.** All notices and other communications required or permitted by this Agreement must be in writing and must be given either by personal delivery, approved carrier, email, or mail.

Ms. Stroupe thanked Mr. Keigher for his support in this project.

The Finance & Facilities Committee recommended the Board of Trustees approve signing the American Rescue Plan Act Subaward Agreement between Gaston County, North Carolina and Gaston College relating to the steam line capital project.

As the motion came from Committee, a second was not required. Chair Dancoff asked if there was any discussion.

The motion carried.

2. Capital Reports

De-escalation Center: The submittals received from the RFP were reviewed and evaluated as required by the State Purchasing Guidelines. Action Target, Inc. was selected as the vendor to provide the pre-cast structure, target system, and audio-visual equipment. The State of North Carolina Purchasing and Contract Office has approved the final contract. Next steps include working with Action Target, Inc to share schematics with C Design to allow the design phase to begin. The City of Gastonia is revising the land use agreement for the new structure and parking lot.

Fiber Innovation Center: Construction is currently 100% complete. Contractor retainage will be paid once the final “as-built drawings” are approved by the State Construction Office and received by the College. The plans and funding are being addressed for the addition of a chiller to serve the new equipment that is being installed. Shelco is in the process of several warranty repairs to the BDA (Bi-directional Amplifiers for emergency services radios) system, generator, compressed air system, and fire alarm panel.

Health Science Education and Simulation Center: The NC Office of State Budget and Management has released the first \$15m allotment to the College for the project. The 3-1 form establishing the project was submitted to the NCCCS State Construction Office and approved on September 20th. A RFQ for architectural design services was issued with documents due October 31st. 21 proposals were received and are being reviewed by an internal committee. Evaluation of bids took place on November 6th.

Minor Project –PTI Automotive Labs Exhaust System: The exhaust systems for the automotive labs in the Pharr Trade and Industrial Building, rooms PTI 109 and PTI 110, will be renovated to install updated equipment. The project is currently in the design phase. Drawings have been completed. We are working with CMTA to put a Scope of Work together.

Minor Project –Rauch Science and Fine Arts Building Lab Hood Exhaust System: The Lab Hood exhaust systems in the Rauch Science and Fine Arts Building need repair and renovation to restore them to full operation. This will include needed repairs, updates for energy savings, and the

removal of the pneumatic controls and air compressor. The controls will be integrated with the Gaston College Building Automation System. The project is currently in the design phase. We are working with CMTA to put a Scope of Work together. Design drawings are complete. The project is an informal project that does not require approval from the State of North Carolina Construction Office or the North Carolina Community College Capital Team. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for general contractor services will be submitted via the State of North Carolina Electronic Vendor Portal.

Minor Project – Regional Emergency Services Training Center (RESTC): The Board of Trustees approved to proceed with the structural inspection January 22, 2024. The structural inspection took place May 14-16, 2024. The concrete testing report has been received. The inspection found two (2) areas within the tower too deteriorated for safe use. Other areas were determined useable but reaching end-of-life. The structure needs replacing within the next several years.

Steam Plant Renovation Project: Gaston County has provided a site assessment from AME Consulting Engineers with an estimated HVAC renovation cost for each building. They have made a revision for two boiler rooms that will need to be added in the Beam Administration Building and the Morris Library buildings. We are awaiting final drawings and cost assessments. The project is currently in the design phase; however, based on preliminary assessments the first phase will focus on the Comer Engineering Technology Building (CET) and the Robinson Classroom Building (RCB). Documents requested by Gaston County concerning the use of ARPA funding have been provided. Gaston County has provided the first draft of subrecipient agreement.

Textile Academy Renovation Project: The project will include interior and exterior renovations to the Kimbrell Classroom Building on the Gaston College Kimbrell Campus. The renovations will create space for (2) Analytical Testing Labs, a Microscopy Lab, and (2) Physical Testing Labs. This will allow for support and growth in industry training for the region, and nationally. It will also enhance the development of the Associates Degree in Textile Technology by offering students hands on training. There will be modifications in the Electrical, HVAC, and Plumbing systems. Funding source to be determined.

This agenda item was for information only; no action was required

3. FY 2024-25 State Operating Budget Approval

The College received a \$757,472 or 2.1% increase in the baseline state operating budget for fiscal year 2025 without enrollment growth funding. Enrollment growth funding is still awaiting legislative process with the hope and expectation that it will be addressed with the House and Senate meeting on November 19, 2024. The additional funding is expected to be approximately \$2.2m, which will need to be approved by the Board of Trustees once it passes in the House and Senate.

In addition to the baseline state operating budget, the College received \$1,051,325 in carry forward funding and \$2,633,6385 in special categorical funding.

	2023-24 Budget Package	2024-25* Baseline Budget
A. <u>BUDGET FTE*</u>		
Curriculum	4,337	4,337
Workforce Con Ed	418	423
Basic Skills	152	164
	4,907	4,924
B. <u>FORMULA ALLOCATION - Current Operating</u>		
Curriculum Instruction	\$18,796,948	\$19,340,309
Continuing Education/Gen Extension Instruction	1,355,606	1,403,774
Basic Skills Instruction - State	414,344	480,571
Institutional Support	12,409,171	12,416,486
Performance-Based Allocation	484,525	532,693
Projected Formula Allocation	\$33,460,594	\$34,173,833
C. <u>OTHER CATEGORICALS:</u>		
Career & Technical Education	\$290,572	\$302,859
Child Care Grants	66,092	66,869
Small Business Center	169,523	171,805
Customized Training Business & Industry	60,000	60,000
Equipment	1,019,877	1,032,207
Instructional Resources	52,826	53,324
Program Specific Categoricals	753,986	770,045
Categorical Allocations	\$2,412,876	\$2,457,109
Total Projected Allocations:	\$35,873,470	\$36,630,942
		\$757,472
		2.1%

The Finance & Facilities Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the FY 2024-25 State Operating Budget.

As the motion came from Committee, a second was not required. Chair Dancoff asked if there was any discussion.

The motion carried.

4. Supplemental State Budget Allocations

\$4,129,598 in Supplemental State Budget Allocations were received through September 2024.

PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	STATE
		CURRENT
361	Customized Training	\$ 444,605
361	CF Admin Allowant	\$ 30
various	Nursing Faculty Salary Adj	\$ 197,449
various	Faculty Recruitment and Retention	\$ 155,137
920	CF Equipment	\$ 1,024,051
930	CF Books	\$ 26,431
321	CF Basic Skills PBF	\$ 1
220	CF PBF	\$ 842
various	High Cost Healthcare Voe 41	\$ 314,666
various	High Cost Healthcare Voe 42	\$ 369,049
510	NC Career Coach	\$ 148,163
321,322	WIOA Section 231	\$ 163,005
321,322	WIOA Section 225	\$ 18,296
357	CF Apprenticeship	\$ 42,794
369	BioNetwork	\$ 956,260
372	CF Apprenticeship	\$ 212,890
554	Short-Term Workforce Development	\$ 7,435
556	LCCCG	\$ 22,436
560	Finish Line Grants	\$ 26,058
	TOTAL	\$ 4,129,598

A total of \$444,605 has been received for Customized Training as of September 2024 as follows:

Customized Training - Reconciliation		
As of September 2024		
		YTD Total
31135	Dole Foods	22,195
31142	Bosch Hand Tools	186,008
31196	Plastics Product Manufacturing	12,067
31198	Parkdale Mills	24,995
31178	Owens-Corning #2	5,674
31189	J & L Machine & Fabrication	4,034
31186	HYDAC	825
31187	Husky	20,460
31195	Huber Technology Inc	32,873
31193	Blum (Project 2)	117,940
31182	APTAR #3	17,564
Total for FY 2024		444,635

This agenda item was for information only; no action was required.

5. Financial Reports

Financial Reports were provided for review. Summaries of budget and expenditures for month-end September 2024, were included for State, Gaston and Lincoln County operating budgets and proprietary accounts in comparison to previous year.

State: State budget **non-categorical** spending was 27.1% spent at the end of September 2024 which is 2.1% over the of target of 25.0%. Results will continue to change as enrollment growth, additional budget supplemental, and longevity funding is received. **Categorical** overall spending is at 24.9% with some categories higher. The nature of some categorical allotments prevents a percentage spending comparison. An example is, purpose code 361 for New and Expanding Industry Customized Training. These funds are allocated to the College to deliver specific training on the timeframe requested by the company. Budget is awarded and expected to be spent quickly. Finance will continue to monitor spending.

County Budgets: 25.3% of the Gaston County budget and 17.37% of the Lincoln County budget has been spent as of the end of September 2024. Finance continues to manage county spending using other funding sources as needed.

Proprietary

The Rhino Shop: Revenues are up \$48,649 for September 2024 as compared to the prior September. Relating expenses are also up \$284,088 when compared to the same time period last year. The spending increase is mostly caused by the timing of purchases for resale and inflation – there is a \$273,543 increase in purchases for resale over the prior year. The net operating loss for September 2024 increased when compared to the operating loss for the same time in the prior year. The Bookstore continues to operate at a loss. Finance will continue to monitor spending.

Textile Center: As the Fiber Innovation Center planning continues and equipment is being purchased, September 2024 revenues decreased \$137,997 when compared to the same time period for FY2023. Expenses are also down significantly due to payroll relating to the Textile Center being moved to State funding.

Athletics: Expenses relating to Athletics through September 2024 were \$235,636 which is down \$36,595 over the prior year. Athletics is funded via student activity fees, excess fees, campus access fees, and bookstore revenues.

Campus Access Fee: Revenues increased \$20,343 over September 2023 due to increased enrollment. Expenses have decreased due to fewer projects and motor vehicles being purchase so far this year.

Fire Training: Revenues for the fire training program are down \$13,039 when compared to the prior year with a slight increase in relating expenses mostly relating to payroll. We expect the financial position of the Regional Emergency Services Training Center to continue to improve with the increase in fees approved at the June 2024 Board meeting.

Foundation: Total Foundation cash and investments is \$13,494,000 million at the end of September 2024.

This agenda item was for information only; no action was required.

6. Grant and Foundation Updates

From July 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024, the Foundation has received \$503,833 through 1,490 gifts, with an average contribution of \$338.

Investment Update:

In February 2024, the Gaston College Foundation moved its long-term investments from Wells Fargo Advisors to the Gaston Community Foundation. As of September 30, 2024, the investments had grown by more than 11.7%, after accounting for investment and administrative fees.

E-Team Sponsor Athletic Campaign Update (as of November 1, 2024)

Baseball		\$45,928.65
Softball		\$14,202.49
Basketball		\$13,249.22
Volleyball		\$5,867.95
Women's	Cross	\$2,035.25
Country		
Total		\$81,283.56

Grants and Sponsored Programs- October 2024

Grants Awarded:

- Bosch Community Fund- \$20,000- Skills USA and Academic Travel
- Gaston Community Foundation- \$20,000- Skills USA and Academic Travel
- High Cost Workforce Programs- \$750,000- Sonography (Lincoln Campus)
- John M. Belk Endowment- \$20,000- Hurricane Helene Relief
- North Carolina Community College Foundation- \$5,000- Hurricane Helene Relief

Grants Pending:

- Duke Energy Foundation-\$50,000- Eletrical Systems Technology Enhancements/SciVisit
- Golden Leaf (Lincoln)- \$1,200,000- Lincoln Health Academy Program Funds (EMT/Paramedic/PN)
- Golden Leaf (Gaston)-\$250,000- Welding expansion and enhancement
- Cannon Foundation- \$75,000- Sonography Matching Funds

This agenda item was for information only; no action was required.

G. SGA REPORT

Ms. Queen reported that the SGA planned and sponsored 17 events since the last Board of Trustees meeting and in total, 1,488 students have attended all SGA events combined.

Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts:

The Gaston College Student Government Association supported a local organization partnered with the Gaston County Jaycees to aid in the relief efforts from the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. Members of the Gaston College SGA volunteered time on Friday, October 4 and Saturday, October 5. During our volunteerism, we sorted and organized supplies and donations including food, clothing, medicine, and hygiene products to be sent, in truckloads, to small towns in Western North Carolina who were affected by Hurricane Helene.

Mental Health Awareness Week:

From October 7-11, the SGA observed Mental Health Awareness Week. Monday, October 7 was Mindful Monday to highlight mindfulness activities to students. Tuesday, October 8 was Talk-It-Out Tuesday. Wednesday, October 9 Wellness Wednesday Walks occurred on campus. Thursday, October 10 Thankful Thursday was observed and students participated by either physically writing out something they are thankful for and placing it on the Crash Cafe wall or virtually participated in a gratitude wall online.

N4CSGA Fall Conference 2024:

On October 18-20, eight student members of the SGA, alongside two advisors, travelled to Forsyth Tech Community College in Winston Salem, NC for the N4CSGA Fall Conference 2024. Gaston College now has three members on the N4CSGA Executive Board, Autumn Queen as Vice-President, Bannock Scott (Gaston College SGA Vice-President) as Secretary, and Alexis Odell (Gaston College SGA Parliamentarian) as Campus-Activities Chair. As well as an N4CSGA Assistant, Amara Bailey, and our Coordinator of Student Life and Special Projects, Meagan Lingerfelt, who serves as a co-advisor for our board. They plan to travel to Raleigh in March for the N4CSGA Spring Conference 2025.

Mostly Ghostly Fall Fest:

On Thursday, October 31, the SGA hosted the annual Fall Fest with the “Mostly Ghostly” theme, since this event was hosted on Halloween. SGA provided Hungry Howie’s Pizza, a variety of sandwiches and subs, as well as cookies to all student attendees. Lightning Events was present and provided a couple of fall/Halloween novelty items to students, including a face painting station and a craft area for students to design their own fall novelty item.

Veterans Appreciation Luncheon:

On Monday, November 11, the SGA hosted a veteran’s appreciation luncheon for all veterans on campus and their families. To show our support and respect for our veterans, this private event was tailored specifically for our student, faculty and staff veterans.

General SGA Involvement:

For the first time since COVID-19, the Student Government Association now has a full student senate. We have 14 students on our board: five executive board members (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian) and nine senators.

H. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dancoff announced that the Board Self-Evaluation Survey will be distributed in January. He encouraged all members to complete the survey, as it provides valuable insights into what is working well for the Board and areas that may need improvement. The results will be reviewed during the Board Retreat on February 7th. Additionally, a guest from the ACCT will facilitate the retreat.

Chair Dancoff also reported that the Board of Trustees’ Executive Committee met on Wednesday, November 13. However, there were no action items to be brought before the Board during the November Board Meeting. It may be necessary to call a December Board of Trustees Meeting for the Board to review and approve an architect for the Health Science Education and Simulation Center.

He shared upcoming athletic events and other activities with the Trustees, encouraging their participation and support. He also requested that those planning to attend the Holiday Luncheon notify Ms. Howe.

I. PRESIDENT'S REPORT / REMARKS

Dr. Hauser highlighted the following from the detailed President's and divisional reports provided in the Board material.

- Gaston College has been designated as an affected county due to Hurricane Helene. The College will receive approximately \$1 million in funding, with \$963,000 allocated for student relief efforts. The remaining funds will be used to purchase a backup generator for WSGE and potentially another for an IT server.
- Dr. Daniel Freeman, Chief Development Officer, was introduced to the Trustees.
- In partnership with NC State University and a university in Honduras, through a USAID grant, training is being delivered both locally and online in Honduras. A testimonial video from a recent trip to Honduras was shared. Dr. Hauser acknowledged the contributions of several individuals involved in course design, including John Nicholson, Jasmine Cox-Wade, and Stephen Sharp from Gaston College's Textile Center, as well as Karen Duncan and Ginger Black from the Dallas Campus. Their efforts made it possible to offer these textile courses in both English and Spanish, benefiting not only students in Honduras but others as well. The anticipated return on this initiative is \$4.3 million.

J. ADJOURNMENT

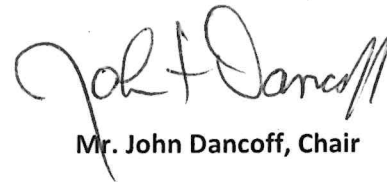
Chair Dancoff asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none,

Chair Dancoff adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

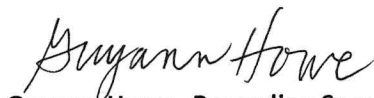
Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Shawnya Gore, Secretary



Mr. John Dancoff, Chair



Guyann Howe, Recording Secretary

(College Seal)