



**Regular Quarterly Meeting  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Paragould –Room PAC128  
August 6, 2020  
12:30 p.m.**

Members present: Carolyn Collins, David Coker, Doug Cox, Ruth Ann Ellis, Sue McGowan, Bob Olvey, Jeremy Baltz and Dr. Martin Eggenesperger. Attending via Zoom: Danny Moore. Cabinet Members and Executive Directors attending: Rhonda Stone, Jason Smith, J.D., Karen Liebhaber, Dr. Brad Baine, and Sissy Gray. Janna Guthrey was present to record the minutes of the meeting.

Carolyn Collins, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., welcoming all those attending via Zoom and in person. The next regular quarterly meeting of the board is scheduled for November 5, 2020, at Pochontas.

**Approval of the May 7, 2020 Minutes**

Doug Cox made a motion to approve the minutes from May 7; Sue McGowan seconded. Motion carried.

**President's Report – Dr. Martin Eggenesperger**

Dr. Eggenesperger began by welcoming all in attendance both in person and on Zoom. He commended the Cabinet, faculty and staff on their efforts to provide for a safe return-to-campus for students. BRTC is on track, adjusting with restrictions that have been put in place. We have overcome the financial hit due to re-budgeting in the state and risen to the challenge. We are approaching this new year with excitement and a determination to maintain our technical and service programs that require hands-on instruction. In the absence of Julie Edington, Executive Director of Human Resources, Dr. Eggenesperger gave a report on fulltime staff and faculty who have resigned and/or retired since the previous meeting.

**Academic Affairs – Dr. Brad Baine**

Dr. Baine asked if there were any questions pertaining to the Academics Department Summary. Courses will be taught as on-campus, hybrid, online and in a cohort method. Classrooms are being arranged to allow for proper social distancing with a contingency plan in place. A question was asked about the need for extra custodial staff. Dr. Baine assured the board that this is not needed at this time as an all-hands-on-deck approach is being used to ensure a safe and sanitary environment.

**Finance – Rhonda Stone**

With this being her fifth year in this position, there are still many challenges to be overcome. Rhonda was happy to let the board know that the fiscal year ended with a surplus. The bookstore is continuing to move back to on-campus. Appointments are being set up with students who need to purchase books. An updated budget and auxiliary spending statement was presented. A portion of CARES monies is being used for technology upgrades.

Workforce dollars are expected to be reduced. Over \$500K was added to reserve funds. The board received an update on the Flood Mitigation situation from Ben DeClerk with DeClerk-Throesch Engineering. The recent audit will be mailed out soon. It contains no findings.

**Enrollment Management – Jason Smith**

Mr. Smith presented his summary and discussed the COVID Plan for the safe return of students to campus. Questions were asked and discussed pertaining to the plan and different protocol involved in the process. He also gave a detailed plan for Tuesday evening's graduation and mascot reveal event.

**Institutional Advancement – Karen Liebhaber**

Mrs. Liebhaber gave an update on her department and shared that this was a record year for the Foundation. She is continuing to monitor the website and keep current information on the Health Page for students to reference as they return to campus.

**Institutional Effectiveness – Sissy Gray**

Mrs. Gray provided her summary and recent updates on the new Strategic Plan. The process for this has been revised and is now much more inclusive, using Zoom meetings, surveys, open forums, etc. A survey has been sent out asking participants to rank the information that has been gathered. Board members were encouraged to participate in the survey, also. Dr. Eggensperger and the board commended Sissy on the work done to pull this all together.

**Approval of Promotional Items Appropriation and Funds Transfer for FY21**

Rhonda Stone submitted the Promotional Items Appropriation and Funds Transfer for FY21. Ruth Ann Ellis made a motion to accept; seconded by Bob Olvey. Motion carried

**Other Business**

**Announcements**

Ruth Ann Ellis was recognized and thanked for her seven years of service to the Board of Trustees. Jeremy Baltz will soon be appointed to this position. Bob Olvey was appointed as Secretary.

**Inservice**

Dr. Baine will email the members a copy of the Convocation agenda that begins next week. Faculty and Staff will participate in general sessions, breakout sessions and office time from 8:00am – 4:30pm daily.

**Graduation**

A joint Graduation and Mascot Reveal celebration will take place Tuesday evening, August 11. Members were invited to join in the fun and ceremony.

Chair, Carolyn Collins (on behalf of herself and the board) commended the administration, faculty and staff on their work with the budget and ending a great year in spite of the many challenges.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Ruth Ann Ellis; seconded by David Coker. Motion carried. The next regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on November 5, 2020, on the Pocahontas Campus.



---

Ruth Ann Ellis, Secretary

August 6, 2020

**Also attending:**

Trent Ingram, Donna Statler, Jeff Steiling with Cahoon Steiling architect firm, Ben DeClerk with DeClerk Throesch Engineering. Several members of the faculty/staff attended via Zoom.

Future Meeting Dates: November 5, 2020 (Pocahontas); February 4, 2021 (Paragould), May 6, 2021 (Pocahontas); August 5, 2021 (Paragould)