



## **Minutes April 9, 2019**

The Robeson Community College Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors met Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. in the BB&T Room in Building 18 Workforce Development Center

***Members Present:***

Dr. Kimberly Gold, Mr. Mark Reif, Mr. Sherwood Southerland, Mrs. Beth Hunt, Mrs. Eveland Wooten, Mr. Eddy Covil, Mrs. Linda Metzger, Mrs. Lisa Hunt, Mrs. Morgan Jones, Mr. Alan Avant, Mrs. Kathy Edge, Mr. Adrian Lowery, Mr. Joseph Martin, Mrs. Lucy Simmons, Mrs. Crystal Collins, Mr. Bryan Britt

***Excused Members:*** Mr. Wesley Washington, Dr. Michelle Cox, Mrs. Jayne Huggins, Mr. Bruce Mullis

***Unexcused Members:*** Mr. Johnny Robertson

***Others Present:***

Mrs. Rebekah Lowry, Mrs. Ashleigh Windley, Mrs. Tami George & Mrs. Elaine Chavis

***Silent Roll Call***

Chair Alan Avant called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M. He welcomed everyone to the Robeson Community College Foundation Board meeting, and thanked everyone for coming and asked Mrs. Linda Metzger to provide the invocation.

***Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2019***

Mr. Bryan Britt made a motion to approve the minutes from January 15, 2019 board meeting and Mr. Joseph Martin seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

***Informational Items***

Chair Avant discussed the Board of Director's directory, the committee directory and the upcoming 2018-19 Board Meeting Calendar.

### ***Director's Report***

Mrs. Lowry began her report by talking about new established endowments and scholarships. These consist of Linda B. Hammond Endowment which is for Early Childhood students, Friends of the Arts Annual Scholarship which was established by the English faculty on campus for English majors. She then began discussing the Bravestep program and informed the committee of the very first recipient, which was Jaiden Finklea. This program was funded by BB&T and First Bank. This program is the dual enrolled program for students at RCC and UNCP. Mrs. Lowry discussed some potential naming opportunities on the rise with the new EMS building including classrooms, office and laboratory rooms. She noted that we are seeking out donations for naming opportunities for the EMS building and the building size donation is \$100,000. Mrs. Lowry stated that we would like to have the building named before it is built.

Mrs. Lowry also discussed the alumni association fundraising efforts. The executive committee raised \$1,054 thru an alumni raffle fundraiser which was a great effort! This will allow the alumni association to award four \$250 scholarships to four students in the next academic year. Mrs. Lowry thanked the committee who bought tickets to support the fundraising efforts. Mrs. Lowry briefly discussed the gifts report and noted that we did well this quarter with fundraising coming into the foundation. She briefly discussed the Celebration of Education Dinner, upcoming Murder Mystery on May 2, and Campus Fund Drive. Director Lowry challenged the foundation board members to attend the murder mystery and/or sell a couples' ticket at \$75.00. She ended her report by thanking the board members for their hard work and dedication to the RCC Foundation, Inc.

### ***President's Report***

Dr. Gold began her report by discussing highlights from her April report that was presented to the Board of Trustees on April 8, 2019. She spoke about how the nursing program is ranked second in the state behind Cape Fear Community College and third was Western Carolina University. Dr. Gold noted that this shows how great our nursing program is to be mentioned among other great schools in North Carolina. She thanked Dr. Meekins and the entire staff for their hard work and stated that part of that ranked is based on NCLEX exam passing rate and we have at 100% passing rate. This also shows that RCC retention rate has improved from 50% to 86%.

Dr. Gold informed the group of a report from the UNC system regarding RCC students who graduated and went onto a UNC system school. Robeson Community College had 92 graduates in 2018 who attended a UNC system school. That is the largest number of transfers we have had since 2009. In addition, she informed the group of Mr. Steven Singletary stating that there were many math and science transfers among that transfer group. She noted how important STEM, summer camps, and campus tours have been in regards to effecting students' decisions. Dr. Gold talked about how prepared our transfer students are when they transfer to other UNC system schools and they perform at the same level as other students or perform higher.

Dr. Gold discussed Mr. Mauney retiring in December and Dr. Patrena Elliott taking the interim position in January 2019. She also noted that we are in the process of hiring a full-time chief

academic officer and hope to have someone by June. She also stated we are in the process of hiring a full time marketing officer. She wants this employee to be a full-fledged webmaster and marketing employee. She also discussed that we hired two full-time facilities personnel to help keep the campus going on a daily basis. She discussed the current project on campus which is building ramps and replacing doors so that they all meet ADA requirements and can accommodate all of our students.

Dr. Gold discussed what we have presented to our legislature representatives in regards to funding for our Workforce Development Programs. We are funded on full-time equivalent students (FTE). They have made the funding streams even for EMS on the continuing education side. In addition, we have hired a full-time interim instructor last year but now will be posting the position on a permanent basis. Dr. Gold is confident the position can be filled because of the EMS personnel in this area/region. The EMS program is growing greatly and the EMS bridge program was also just implemented recently. She noted the pharmacy tech program has been reinvigorated as well as a dialysis tech program and phlebotomist classes. The funding received for these programs last year was non-recurring but we hope that it will be added in this year's budget because we were able to get a lot accomplished with that funding last year.

Dr. Gold informed the board members that we are asking for \$15 million statewide to upgrade our IT system. This is important because we are currently working off of a system that was used 25 years ago. This needs to be updated so that can be up to date with our students just as a bank or healthcare system would be. She also noted how we are advocating for an increase in faculty salaries to be in line with the national average. Currently, North Carolina ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in salaries. Dr. Gold discussed the impacts of Hurricane Florence on our FTE students and she stated that we lost 66 FTE students which equates to losing \$350,000. Robeson Community College and other colleges who were effected by Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael are advocating for FTE mitigation. In the past two years, we have received between \$400,000-\$500,000 each year in FTE mitigation for help from the Hurricane Matthew disaster. This has been very tremendous in helping our students recover from Hurricane Matthew.

President Gold began discussed our career coach program. They are people who we hire that are on high school campuses who help students make career choices and enroll in our dual enrollment program. The program has been successful so far and we currently have one career coach and it is currently a grant funded position and the match is \$35,000. Dr. Gold ended her report by telling the board about the Week of the Young Child put on by our Early Childhood program and our upcoming commencement exercises. Dr. Gold also discussed her decision to resign from Robeson Community College on June 30. She thanked the board for their hard work and noted that she enjoyed working everyone on the campus.

### ***Financial Reports***

Tami George presented the financial report to the board members and stated that we have one quarter left in the fiscal year. Mrs. George noted that we spent \$36,068.22 of the \$53,973.00 that is remaining in the budget. Revenues on a cash basis is \$659,045.27 and total revenues over expenditures are \$538,941.55 Mrs. George had Mrs. Lowry discuss the negative line item

board meeting meals (24.01) and asked for it to be moved to board training to cover the negative. Mrs. Beth Hunt made a motion to transfer the negative line item from board meeting meals to board training and Mr. Mark Reif seconded the motion, motion passed.

Mr. Mark Reif made a motion to accept the financial report given by Mrs. Tami George and was seconded by Mr. Eddy Covil, motion passed.

***New Business***

Chair Alan Avant discussed the RFP with the committee to update them on the current state of the RFP for investment services. He thanked the financial committee for their hard work and stated that we hope to meet and have a decision at the next board meeting in July. Mr. Alan Avant also stated that we need to set up a meeting with the financial committee in the coming weeks.

***Closing Comments***

***Adjournment***

Chair Avant asked there was any other business to cover for the good of the Foundation, hearing none the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Alan Avant  
Foundation Chair

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Dr. Kimberly Gold  
Robeson CC President

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Mrs. Rebekah R. Lowry  
Foundation Director