

Blue Ridge Community College
Board of Trustees Retreat
December 14, 2007
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Kellogg Center

The Board of Trustees of Blue Ridge Community College met on Friday, November 14, 2007, at the Kellogg Center for an all day retreat.

The following members were present:

John McCormick, Jr.	Chip Gould
Bill Farrell	Patricia Jones
Ken Butcher	Candler Willis
Marilyn Bailey	Betty Gash
Ronnie Pepper	Roy Neill
David Hall	Kohlman Flynn

The following members were excused:

Jeff McDaris
Mike Hawkins
Tom Orr

Others attending:

Molly Parkhill	David Hutto
Earl Medlin	David Whitson
Ann Green	Marcia Stoneman
Matt Matteson	Brenda Conner
Alma Jones	Celeste Oprean
Caren Kessler	Donnie Hunter, NCACCT

President Parkhill thanked Trustees for coming, discussed the details of the day's agenda and introduced Dr. Donny Hunter, Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees (NCACCT).

Effective Members and Effective Boards

Dr. Hunter spoke briefly on his background and current position with the NCACCT. Dr. Hunter presented to Board Members a slide presentation on effective board leadership. The members discussed the President's evaluation and possible options for conducting this year's evaluation. It was suggested that with a relatively new board and a new president, a committee of

the whole board conduct this year's evaluation. Dr. Hunter then reviewed the board's role in planning and supporting the College. Handouts were provided and made a part of these notes.

Trustees and other participants took a break for lunch and upon reconvening President Parkhill discussed the details of the afternoon's agenda.

President Parkhill explained the Intercollegiate Athletics Task Force Final Report to the State Board of Community Colleges, which was included in Trustee folders. This report was submitted to the State Board at the November meeting but no action on the report has been taken at this time. A copy of the report is attached and made a part of these notes. President Parkhill stated all community colleges with athletic programs are required to submit an Athletic Cost Analysis to their local boards and the State Board of Community Colleges. An Accountability Report of Expenditures and Revenues is also required to be sent to the State Board by June of each year.

Update on Significant Issues Facing BRCC and the North Carolina Community College System

President Parkhill introduced the following college employees to give brief updates on significant issues facing the College:

Marcia Stoneman, Dean for Student Services, gave a brief history and description of the new directive from the North Carolina Community College System office concerning undocumented aliens and their admission to community colleges.

Earl Medlin, Dean for Instruction, updated Trustees on the new accreditation outlines in regard to the Nursing program, which is mandated by the State Board. A Resolution by the State Board of Community Colleges Regarding Changes Proposed by the N.C. Board of Nursing is attached and made a part of these notes. Dr. Medlin also outlined the automotive programs which will be offered at the new Applied Technology building at the Transylvania Center.

Alma Jones, the current Faculty Council Chair, informed Board Members the Faculty Council was currently working on the following initiatives:

- The two Endowed Faculty Chair positions
- Forming an Executive Council to be made up of one member from each division
- Appointed a Work Load Committee
- Working with the Curriculum Committee on new programs offerings

David Hutto, Dean for Technology and Development, updated Trustees on the new Technology Education Development Building project. He distributed floor plans for the building and explained the plans in detail. Mr. Hutto stated the College had applied for a FEMA Grant to fund the Virtual Reality Cave. Mr. Hutto also discussed the broadband initiative and future efforts for Henderson and Transylvania Counties.

David Whitson, Dean for Administrative Services discussed the College's Emergency Response Plan.

Celeste Oprean, Director for Business and Service Careers, explained the history, process and current status of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Accreditation for our reaffirmation.

Caren Kessler, English Instructor, updated Board Members on the College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). This is a key component of our SACS Accreditation.

Strategic Planning Project Update

President Parkhill introduced Matt Matteson, Director for Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness.

Mr. Matteson informed Board Members of the outcomes from the environmental scans and focus group sessions. A Copy of all handouts given to Trustees are attached and made a part of these notes.

Mr. Matteson described the College's Strategic Plan 2008-2013 – Trends and Assumptions which were generated from the focus group sessions. Mr. Matteson divided Trustees into the following three breakout groups to evaluate the trends and assumptions, come up with comments and suggestions and bring those back to the whole group.

Group 1 – Demographic and Workforce Trends

- Questioned if retirees from the baby boom generation would require a greater variety of new programs to train for new jobs or would their interest be geared more towards hobbies
- Questioned if there really is a shortage of jobs in the area
- Questioned if the College would need to offer more specialized training for Latino student needs
- Group agreed that there will be a demand by employers to teach “Soft skills” such as leadership, work ethics, responsibility, critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving, communications, and social skills.

Group 2 – Technology and Economic Trends

- Group agreed that the College instructors will need to “retool” and obtain new skills to keep up with new technology.
- Group agreed that Distance Learning will become a major component of community college education in the future.
- Group agreed the availability of affordable broadband service will be required to deliver educational programs o the future.

- Questioned the fact that low-skill manufacturing jobs will continue to be lost but unemployment in the region will remain low because of rapid growth in the construction and service industries.
- Group agreed there will be a need for public transportation, but this will be driven by the high cost of fuel, which is not there yet

Group 3- Social and Political Trends

- Group agreed with all of the trends as presented and ranked them in priority order the following are the top four:
 1. New partnerships with employers, organizations, and other educational institutions will be of prime importance
 2. Part-time adjunct faculty members will become a greater proportion of the College's overall instruction cadre
 3. Environmental issues will become more important and "green" will become a major part of the College's day-to-day operations
 4. To reach more students, the College will need to be more flexible in terms of the time of day, days of the week, and the duration of its course offerings

President Parkhill explained that the College's Planning Council will continue to work with this information and other data collected to draft the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan for approval by the Board.

Budgetary Process and Facilities Planning

David Whitson presented a slide presentation on the 2008-2009 Facilities Condition Assessment Plan and Budget Request. A copy of the presentation and supporting documentation is attached and made a part of these notes.

President Parkhill informed Trustees that members will have continual dialogues as the College finalizes the Strategic Plan.

President Parkhill thanked Board Members for their participation in the retreat and stated that an evaluation survey will be sent out to Trustees to get feedback for future retreats.