

**MINUTES**  
**Approved 4.27.21**

**Doc: 30 FY2021**

**North Shore Community College**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 4:45 pm - 6:30 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

In Attendance

Andrea Gayle-Bennett; Anh Dao Tran-Moseman; Barbara Heinemann; Dr. Dharma Cortés ;Dr. J.D. LaRock; Elijah Alouidor; Joseph Riley; Maria Vega-Viera; Nicole Bluefort

Additional Attendees

Interim President Nate Bryant; Vice President Jan Forsstrom; Vice President Karen Hynick; Interim Vice President Stephen Creamer; Linda Brantley; Miranda Gualtieri; Thanh Giddarie; Tim Johnson; Laurie LaChapelle; Madeline Wallis; Jesse Thompson; Paul Doeg; Evan Bjorklund; Joanne Sullivan; Thea Soohoo; Frank D'Agostino; Susan Sullivan; Sara Hilinski; Vanessa Bates; Jane Levesque; Cristy Sugarman; Donna Davis; John Duff; Barbara Heath; Michael Leonard; Bethany Croteau; Lori Vinci; Chris Bednar; Ronald Smith; Kimberly Odusami; Andrea DeFusco Sullivan; Mariflor Uva; Rebecca Paquett; Michele Cubelli-Harris; Jason -SFS; iPhone; iPhone

1. 4:45 pm Call to order

Chair LaRock called the meeting to order at 4:46pm.

2. 4:47pm Public comments

There were no public comments.

3. 5:00pm Presidential Search

a. Update from Chair LaRock

Chair LaRock indicated that the five unranked finalists in the presidential search would be interviewed by the trustees and Board of Higher Education the following week.

Chair LaRock reported that members of the college community reached out to him to express positive feelings about Interim President Bryant. Chair LaRock said that NSCC is very fortunate to have Interim President Bryant continuing on in the most challenging year, in which only an adept leader could marshal the support of the community as he has.

Interim President Bryant read the following statement:

It has been an honor to serve as president of this institution. While it is naturally disappointing not to advance in the process, I have spent the last eight months doing the job of president to the best of my ability. I never looked at the interim role as an extended interview, but rather an opportunity to make decisions that would best serve the college in the short and long term. I appreciate all the faculty, students and administrators who have supported me in that mission, and I wish the college the best moving forward.

Chair LaRock thanked the members of the search committee for their work in identifying the five finalist candidates for consideration. The candidate with the majority of support from the trustees will be forwarded on to the state board for approval. The trustees intend to take into consideration the feedback through open forums, in addition to the specific qualifications the trustees have identified in the broader context that all of higher education is facing.

#### 4. 5:05pm Chair's Report

##### a. Review of minutes of 2/23/21 Doc: 27 FY2021

Chair LaRock asked if there were any edits to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to accept the minutes of 2/23/21.

- Motion 21:15 to accept the minutes of 2/23/21

Move: Joseph Riley Second: Dr. Dharma Cortes Status: Passed

#### 5. 5:20pm Student Trustee Report

Elijah Alouidor reported that the SGA is meeting weekly, partnering with MassPIRG, and will participate in faculty development day. The SGA also has a VP of Inclusion.

#### 6. 5:30pm Budget and Finance Update

##### a. Recommendation for FY22 fees Doc: 29 FY2021

Interim President Bryant recommended that there not be an increase in fees. NSCC is in a good position for FY22 to not burden students with fees given all of the Covid challenges. Trustees expressed agreement with the proposal.

- Motion 21:16 to accept FY22 fees

Chair LaRock asked for a motion to accept and confirm no fee increase for FY22.

Move: Dr. Dharma Cortes Second: Maria Vega-Viera Status: Passed

##### b. Update on HEERFII funds Doc: 28 FY2021

Vice President Forsstrom and Interim President Bryant reviewed the federal stimulus funding.

HEERFI funds: NSCC received \$4,359,651 which must be spent by April 2020.

HEERFII funds: NSCC received \$7,520,742 which must be spent by December 2021. HEERFII funds are more flexible in how they can be used. Senior Leadership recommends

that the funds be used for revenue lost to enrollment decline, indirect cost, professional development and other Covid related expenses such as cleaning, PPE and technology.

American Rescue Plan Act: NSCC received \$13,151,000 which must be used by September 2023. These funds will likely be the last round of funds received.

The strategy for the stimulus funds is to get through FY22 and FY23 without major layoffs or cuts, offset enrollment decline and student A/R balances, offset payroll expense, provide operational funds offset to plan for future, allow for new 5 year strategic plan in FY22, and increase reserves to prepare for a precipitous decline in enrollment in FY24/FY25/FY26.

There was some discussion as to whether funds are directly applied to student charges.

At the April trustee meeting, a 5 year budget will be presented. FY21 and FY22 are expected to close out in the positive.

## 7. 5:45pm Interim President's Report

### a. Covid-19 Update

There were no updates on Covid at this time.

### b. Update on Chief Diversity Officer

Interim President Bryant announced that Nikki Pelonia will become NSCC's inaugural Chief Diversity Officer in May. Nikki is currently the Director of Education and Training, Inclusive Excellence at Salem State University. Nikki will report to the President and be a member of the college's Executive Leadership Team.

### c. Discussion of fall reopening plan

Interim President Bryant reported that the Reopening Team meets weekly. Safety is the number 1 priority.

Early results from student surveys on modalities in the fall were split equally between 3 groupings: online/asynchronous only, hybrid and in person. The group wanting to be in person are the younger students, while the more adult students are trending towards online and hybrid.

Interim President Bryant indicated that this is the time to increase the online footprint. There was discussion as to whether an uptick was seen in technology and healthcare programs. Vice President Hynick reported that there have been more opportunities in Gen Ed.

## 8. 6:00pm Executive Session

Chair LaRock asked for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing candidates for the presidency of NSCC since proceeding in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect.

- a. Motion 21:17: To go into executive session for the purpose of considering and selecting candidates for the presidency of NSCC since proceeding in an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants.

Trustees discussed the questions they would ask finalists in the interviews as well as the tools that could help the decision process and ways of quantifying candidate strengths and concerns.

Move: Andrea Gayle-Bennett Second: Maria Vega-Viera Status: Passed

## 9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.