

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Coffee Campus, Planning Room
12:00 Noon

ATTENDANCE
MEMBERS PRESENT: Rebecca Corbett, Sue Lane Hughes, Amanda Ramshead (remote- Adel), Dr. Mark Sutton, Dr. Rodney Green, Matt Seale, Mary Crawford (remote Valdosta)
MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe Brownlee, Bradfield Shealy, Lisa Sumner, Dr. Joi Williams, Ronnie Dean
SENIOR STAFF PRESENT: DeAnnia Clements, Elizabeth Vickers, Casey Thompson, Thomas Wesley, David Vanlandingham (remote), Lidell Greenway, Keren Wynn, Shalonda Sanders, Shannon McConico (remote), Michael Williams, Kelly Peacock, Aaron Matthews, Misty Crofutt
SENIOR STAFF NOT PRESENT: Mona Mackenzie

DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm. by Dr. Mark Sutton.

The pledge of allegiance was sited and a blessing for the meal was given by Dr. Mark Sutton.

President DeAnnia Clements introduced new team members- Thomas Wesley, Misty Crofutt, and Aaron Matthews.

The minutes from the September 4th meeting were submitted to the board. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Dr. Mark Sutton and properly seconded by Matt Seale. There being no opposition to the motion, the motion to accept the meeting minutes carried unanimously.

Before the meal, President DeAnnia Clements announced the passing of Board Member Al Walker. She advised that she would share more details about services once she has those details.

Department Updates

Academic Affairs (Thomas Wesley)

Retirement/New Hires

- April McDuffie Retired; Thomas has assumed her role
- Allison Watkins Retired - looking for replacement
- 12 people have been hired since November 18

New Programs- Roll out in Fall Semester 2025

- Advanced Business and Customer Service Technology- Wilcox Prison
- Geriatric Care- Wiregrass wide
- Electrical Line Worker- BHI Campus

Program Cancellations

- Guidelines for cancellations: No Enrollment in the past 5 years; Wiregrass has confirmed with the Registrar's Office.
- Programs have been sent to SACSCOCC to be properly cancelled

Internships Updates

- Students that participate in internships/practicums can now receive reimbursement for time spent

Dual Enrollment- Student Records

- Parents of dual enrolled students can now have access to student records without a FERP waiver form; however, Wiregrass is still recommending the form be submitted prior to releasing records

TCSG- Placement and Graduation

- TCSG is still maintaining a great record
 - Placement 92.6%
 - Graduation 99.6%

Industrial Systems- Renaming/Rebranding

- Many have removed the term "industrial" because of the association with it being dirty so it has been renamed "Automation Technology". This has affected some of the name specific courses

High School Services

- The High school Services department is hosting two recruitment events on Wiregrass campuses. Geek Fest and Get Wired

Geek Fest- 2/4/25 830a-1130a (Valdosta Campus)

- This event will feature all Business Education, Computer Science, Professional Services, and Health Science Programs

Get wired- 3/6/25 9a-11a (Coffee Campus)

- This event will feature all programs offered on the Coffee Campus

Follow up question

Q: (Matt Seale): Since we don't vote on the programs that are going away; How easy it to bring some of those back?

A: (DeAnnia Clements): Advised that sometimes there is a class in place that teaches the same content but just with a different name; If we were to bring one back it would go through review of the board and could happen as quickly as 2 months.

Motion to approve new programs

- At 12:33 pm a motion to approve to new programs Advanced Business and Customer Service Technology, Geriatric Care and Electrical Line Work was made by Dr. Mark Sutton and properly seconded by Dr. Rodney Green. There being no opposition to the motion, the motion to approve these programs was carried unanimously.

Administrative Services Update (Keren Wynn)

- Revenue- Report reflects 49.7% Total Revenue

- Expenses- noted that 2023 building expenses had a 3.6M budget but only used 135K; Carried over funds from that budget but it can make the reporting look deceiving as 2023 was 3.7% and 2024 was at 96.8%

Enrollment Management Update (Shannon McConico)

Fall & Spring Enrollment

- First day of class started Mon 1/6; since Mon we have added over 300 students
- We have been extremely busy getting students enrolled in classes
- Down 16% but does not include any summer enrollment; This is typical of Spring semester as many students wait until after the holidays to enroll
- Over 100 HS students to enroll, 100-150 Department of corrections to enroll, and express term students to enroll as well
- May have seen an impact to overall enrollment due to the hurricane
- Surveys are being sent out to try to gather additional data about why they didn't re-enroll this semester

Adult Education Update (Kelly Peacock)

- 654 total students enrolled
- 15k Grant received from the Department Early Care and Learning- Helps with the Child Care programs
- New Career plus HS Diploma- uses combination of HS Credits, College credits
- Full time position open on BHI campus
- Part time positions open in Echols and Wilcox

Foundation/Fundraising Update (Elizabeth Vickers)

- Judge Jeremy Baker- New Board Member (South Foundation Board now at 13)
 - Seeking 2 more to get us up to 15
- Working on a development plan for both the South and North- Scholarships, equipment, building renovations
- Scholarships- 190 total in both regions (some fields don't get near enough funding for the overall cost) such as CDL and Nursing
- Corks and Forks- March and September; Fundraising event

Economic Development Update (Michael Williams)

- On target to meet or exceed training hours from the previous year
- Continuing ED 44%; on track to meet targets
- Goodwill Construction class- Feb (Valdosta)
 - 2 in Cook and 2 in Coffee; BHI did not get off the ground
- Backhoe, Mini Excavator, Trailer received
- Caterpillar equipment coming to BHI this week; Big opportunity for Heavy Equipment Operator training
- Lots of trainings have taken place at Pilgrims Pride- Short term training through Wiregrass (as they have committed to not lay anyone off)
- Virtual Reality Headsets had 20K unused; will be used on Marketing so you will

see some content in the future

President's Comments:

- Thanked the team for the hard work that goes into making the college successful

Statewide High Demand Career List

- Broken down by Statewide, Southwest GA, Southern GA.
- Will be a couple new initiatives added

Broadband Listening Session 1/29 1pm-4pm (Valdosta Cox Hall)

- Voice of those rural communities
- Can attend themselves or from folks in their office- Valdosta Cox Hall

Wiregrass Listening Sessions

- To support our strategic plan based on our needs
- Every 5 years we try and get input- needs and challenges
- Offered to Community, Staff, and Students

Eagle Student of the Year- Jermaine Riley

- He completed the GED program and now works for the College (Coffee Campus)
- He will compete Statewide in Atlanta in March 2025

Adult Education Instructor of the year- Renee Elliott

- She was not a finalist, but she is an amazing instructor!

GOAL Student- Abilynn Berk

- EMS Professions- Valdosta Campus
- Decided to go into this program from her time as a lifeguard
- She will compete Statewide in Atlanta in March 2025

Instructor of the year- John Patten

- Media Production program coordinator
- Does a lot of video production for the college as well

Articulation Agreements (3 Agreements)

- University of Georgia reached out to sign an articulation agreement
 - Occupational Studies can be transferred into the BA of Science in Agriculture
- Signed an agreement with Avac
- GA Military College

Enrollment

- Enrollment has been amazing- 21% growth over the past 3 years
- Thanked the board and her team for their assistance in driving that growth

Follow up question:

Q: Matt Seale asked DeAnnia for any updates on AMI

A: DeAnnia provided the following updates

- We have been working with AMI that is an organization that can help us provide training for students and faculty
- They have reached out to Senator Hickman for a pilot program for Wiregrass to become a pilot program
- AI is being integrated, and robotics specifically has transformed the skills needed to teach and learn

- Conversations have been happening in the legislature level regarding AI and the changing landscape

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT:

Next Board Meeting- Feb 5th – Location change was agreed upon to move from Val to BHI (Fitzgerald Campus) to accommodate for travel to Atlanta for the Birds Supper; May see an increase in remote attendance due to travel.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:11pm was given by Mark Sutton and seconded by Matt Seale. All in agreement, the motion was carried out unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: Misty Crofutt

OFFICIAL