



NAVARRO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MAY 27, 2021 MEETING  
MINUTES

On Thursday, May 27, 2021, the Navarro College Board of Trustees gathered in the Cook Education Center located on the Corsicana Campus to conduct their regular monthly meeting. Trustees in attendance included: Chairman Phil Judson, Vice Chairman Billy Todd McGraw, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Aldama, Trustee A. L. "Buster" Atkeisson, Trustee Faith Holt, Trustee Loran Seely and Trustee Kim C. Wyatt. Others in attendance included:

Dr. Kevin G. Fegan	District President
Ms. Teresa Thomas	Vice President, Finance and Administration
Ms. Marcy Ballew	Vice President, Human Resources
Dr. Carol Hanes	Vice President, Academic Affairs
Dr. Harold Housley	Vice President, Operations and Institutional Advancement
Ms. Stacie Sipes	Director of Marketing and Public
Ms. Susan Womack	Senior Research Analyst
Mr. Barry Sullivan	Director, Information Technology
Mr. Guy Featherston	Dean, Waxahachie Campus and Health Professions
Ms. Jeanette Underwood	Dean, Midlothian Campus and Dual Credit
Ms. Leslie Smith	Executive Assistant to the District President
Judge H.M. Davenport	Navarro County Judge

Other staff and guests were also present.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Judson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. He welcomed Navarro County Judge H. M. Davenport in the audience and asked Trustee Seely to begin the meeting with a prayer.

**Board Announcements**

No announcements were made.

**Open Forum Time**

There were no requests to address the Board.

**Consent Calendar**

- a. Minutes – April 22, 2021 Enrollment Workshop
- b. Minutes – April 29, 2021 Meeting

Trustee Holt made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Trustee Wyatt seconded the motion, and the decision was unanimous.

**Oath of Office**

Chairman Judson announced incumbent trustees, Richard Aldama and A.L. "Buster" Atkeisson, were uncontested in the May 1, 2021 election and were declared elected at the February 21, 2021 Board Meeting. He stated Navarro County Judge H.M. Davenport has agreed to witness the signing of the Officers Statements and to administer the Oath of Office.

Judge Davenport witnessed the signing of the Officer's Statements and administered the Oath of Office to Trustee Aldama and Trustee Atkeisson. Chairman Judson presented each with a Certificate of Election and photos were

taken. Chairman Judson stated each trustee brings a special expertise to the Board and expressed appreciation for their work, time and insight into the activities of the college and decisions that must be made on an almost daily basis.

#### **Election of Officers**

Chairman Judson stated the governing body is required to elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer in May of odd-numbered years in accordance with Board Policy.

Trustee Atkeisson made a motion to re-elect Phil Judson as Chairman, Billy Todd McGraw as Vice Chairman, and Richard Aldama as Secretary-Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Trustee Seely and passed by a unanimous vote.

#### **Update on Enrollment**

Vice President Ruiz presented the update on enrollment. She noted the May Mini-mester census date, June 3, 2021, is also the first day of class. As of May 17, 2021, May Mini-mester enrollment was down 22.8% (79 students) compared to the previous year. Vice President Ruiz noted several courses offered last year are not being offered this year. She continued stating Summer I enrollment is currently down 320 students, -14% in semester credit hours, and Summer II is down 133 students, -10% in semester credit hours.

She was pleased to report fall enrollment is currently up 698 students (110 credit students and 558 dual credit students), 31% in semester credit hours. Margaret Alfaro and Student Recruiting report they are seeing activity pick up with more tours being booked at all campus locations.

Vice President Ruiz concluded her report. Dr. Fegan noted comparing the May Minimester and Summer enrollments to last year's is not an "apple-to-apple" comparison. The May Mini-mester classes are all online and many students are tired of online instruction. Dr. Fegan also noted many fall athletes take summer classes but have not had an opportunity to register yet because they have been competing.

Trustee Wyatt commented it is nice to see "plus" numbers. Chairman Judson agreed and added it is important to get the message out that Navarro College is open for business at the same tuition rate.

#### **Consider Action on April 2021 Financial Statement**

Vice President Thomas presented the April 2021 Financial Statement for approval. There were no budget amendments to report for the month of April 2021 and the 2020-2021 revised budget remained \$100,914,890 as of April 30, 2021. A review of the Source of Funds indicated 80.44% of student income budget had been earned and 105.2% of local appropriations (which includes ad valorem tax collections that were budgeted at 95%). Overall, 61.17% of the entire Educational and General fund operating budget had been earned as of April 30, 2021.

Disbursements increased by \$3,158,976 compared to last year due to federal grants/CARES Act expenditures. Vice President Thomas noted when grant expenses are removed, expenditures have actually decreased compared to the previous year.

Net income showed a decrease of \$1,913,155 as of April 30, 2021. Vice President Thomas stated this is due to a timing difference of receiving \$2.8 million in drawdowns of Federal Grants. Dr. Fegan explained for Judge Davenport's benefit that expenses have to be incurred before CARES Act funds can be drawn down. He noted there is approximately one month's lag time in receiving drawdowns from CARES Act funds after the expenditures have been made.

Trustee Aldama inquired if there is a timetable when CARES grant funds have to be used. Dr. Fegan stated there is and extensions can be applied for. He stated details will be shared during the Board's Budget Workshop in June, including a separate operating statement.

Trustee Aldama moved to approve the April 2021 financial statement and Trustee Atkeisson seconded the motion. The decision was unanimous.

Trustee Atkeisson commended Vice President Thomas on her presentation.

#### **Review Preliminary May 2021 Financial Statement**

Vice President Thomas stated there was no preliminary activity to report for the May 2021 financial statement and concluded.

#### **Update on Personnel Actions**

Vice President Marcy Ballew presented an update on personnel activity. She announced the following appointments were made from April 23, 2021 to May 27, 2021:

- Leslie Hayes promoted to Dean of Workforce Development & Continuing Education
- Hannah Cope – Financial Aid Success Coach
- Kinsey Ratcliff – College & Career Success Coach
- Elizabeth Hiller – Administrative Assistant – Campus Police
- Margarita Escareno – College & Career Success Coach for Athletics
- Miranda Bazan – College & Career Success Coach
- Marisol Arenivas – Director of Residence Life
- Patricia Looper – Medical Lab Technology (MLT) Program Director and Associate Professor

The following exits were announced:

- Tammy Britton – Administrative Assistant – TRiO Student Support Services
- Christina Lucas – Curator of Exhibits & Collections
- Michael Couch – Admissions Specialist/Recruiter
- Kailee Peppers – Assistant Cheer Coach

Vice President Ballew concluded her report and was thanked by Chairman Judson.

Dr. Fegan noted the position Leslie Hayes has been promoted to as Dean of Continuing Education has been combined with her Adult Education and Literacy position. Another position will be added to AEL.

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

##### **Board Calendar of Events**

Dr. Fegan reviewed highlights of upcoming events. He asked trustees to let him know their intent for attending the fundraisers, Legacy – A New Voice and Dancing for Our Stars.

##### **Legislative Update**

Dean Guy Featherston shared an update on House Bill (HB) 885 that will allow Navarro College to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. He was pleased to share the following highlights of the legislative session.

- HB 885 was pre-filed in December 2020.

- April 13, 2021 – Approved Unanimously through Full House of Representatives
- May 19, 2021 – Approved Unanimously by the Senate Higher Education Committee
- May 22, 2021 - Approved by the Full Senate

Dean Featherston noted the bill was slightly modified during the process to make sure parties involved with the approval process were satisfied. These modifications will need to be approved by the House before the bill can be sent to the Governor for signing. The governor has until June 15th to sign, not sign, or veto the bill. If the governor signs or does not sign the bill, the legislation will still pass and go into effect June 15, 2021 because it received more than 66% of the votes required in both the House and Senate. Dr. Fegan stated Representative Cody Harris has listed HB 885 as his top bill to be signed by the Governor and an official signing is anticipated. He cautioned that until the governor signs or the effective date occurs, it is not finalized.

Dean Featherston commended Dr. Fegan for his leadership in this process stating without him, it would not have realized such success. Dean Featherston continued stating once the bill becomes effective, further approvals will be required from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), the Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on College (SACSCOC) accrediting body, and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

Before THECB approval can be sought, the Board of Trustees will be required to formally approve offering the BSN, most likely next month. In addition, a 30-day notice must be sent to colleges and universities within 50 miles giving them an opportunity to challenge or protest. The approval process for THECB can take 6-12 months. Once approval is received, a substantive change request will be submitted to SACSCOC to move from a Level I to a Level II (bachelor's granting) institution. Application for Candidacy Status for BSN will also be submitted to ACEN to allow Navarro College to begin the program. A site visit will occur within two years for full accreditation.

Dean Featherston concluded stating the program start is targeted for fall 2023 with the first graduating class anticipated August 2024.

Chairman Judson stated this is a great day. He thanked Dr. Fegan and Dean Featherston for all of their background work in preparing Navarro College for this moment, for presenting to both houses of the legislature, and for the support they have gained from all educational, medical, and legislative partners in the service area. He stated this was not an easy job and expressed the Board's appreciation for all they have done.

Dr. Fegan thanked Chairman Judson and stated the earliest start date would be next spring but it will require hitting key dates including SACSCOC's June 2022 meeting. This will be dependent on how long it takes to get approval from the Coordinating Board. Dr. Fegan also noted multiple deliveries are being looked into including a four-year residential program on the Corsicana campus and bridge opportunities with paramedics to BSN that may require different approvals if the Coordinating Board and SACSCOC consider them as different programs instead of different delivery methods.

Dr. Fegan continued stating the college is in this position because of the wise decision made by the Board a few years ago to move the nursing program to the Ellis County campus. Although the decision was not popular at that time, it proved to be the right move and extremely beneficial in this process. He stated while the finish line is still to be reached, overall, he is feeling very positive about the outcome.

#### Commencement

Dr. Fegan thanked colleagues and the Board for all of the effort, work and support making graduation a success. He commended colleagues for an outstanding job under the leadership of Vice President Ruiz and stated there will

never be another event as effective as this one was. Chairman Judson stated it was truly a very special night in the history of Navarro College and could not have been any better.

**Announcement and Adjournment**

Chairman Judson announced the Board will meet at 4:00 p.m. on June 24, 2021 for a Budget Workshop and meeting afterwards at 7:00 p.m. He thanked Judge Davenport again and asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Atkeisson and was seconded by Trustee Aldama. The decision was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard L. Aldama, Secretary-Treasurer  
Navarro College Board of Trustees