

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Greensboro

SEPTEMBER 12, 2001

FIRST REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Trustees convened for its First Regular Meeting for 2001-2002 on Wednesday, September 12, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. in the Dowdy Administration Building Trustee Boardroom. In keeping with the By-laws of the Board of Trustees, notices of the meeting were mailed in advance.

The meeting was called to order by presiding Chairman, Ralph K. Shelton. The invocation was given by Mr. Shelton.

Roll Call revealed that the following were:

Present:	Mr. R. Steve Bowden	Mr. Ralph K. Shelton
	Mrs. Carole Bruce	Dr. Velma R. Speight
	Mr. D. Hayes Clement	Mr. Michael L. Suggs
	Dr. Katie G. Dorsett	Dr. Gerald L. Truesdale
	Mr. Gregory B. Drumwright	Mr. Joseph A. Williams
	Mr. Henry H. Isaacson	

Excused:	Mr. M.S. "Brick" Brown
	Dr. Charles McQueary

Others Present:	Chancellor James C. Renick	Mrs. Nettie Rowland
	Cabinet Members	Mrs. Mable Scott
	Mrs. Leonora Bryant	Mr. Charles Watkins
	Ms. Akua Brown	Ms. Allison Foreman,
	Mrs. Janese Fails	Greensboro News and Record

Mr. Shelton noted that he received a call from Mr. Brown and Dr. McQueary indicating that they would not be able to be present due to circumstances stemming from the events of September 11, 2001. Their absences were acknowledged and recorded as excused.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mrs. Leonora Bryant was called forward to administer the Oath of Office to the following new members of the Board: Dr. Katie Dorsett, Mr. D. Hayes Clement, Mr. Gregory Drumwright and Mr. Joseph Williams.

THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Fourth Regular Meeting, held on April 18, 2001, were presented for approval. A motion was offered by Dr. Speight and properly seconded by Mr. Bowden to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF OFFICERS

Chairman Shelton stated that Mr. Isaacson was appointed to chair the Nominating Committee of the Board and called upon him for the Committee's report. Mr. Isaacson stated that the Committee was comprised of himself, Mr. Bowden and Dr. McQueary. He reported that the Committee offered the following slate of officers for consideration to serve for a term of one year:

Mr. Ralph K. Shelton, Chairman
Dr. Velma R. Speight, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Gerald L. Truesdale, Secretary

Mr. Shelton asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Mrs. Bruce offered a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented. The motion was properly seconded and received unanimous approval by the Board.

Chairman Shelton thanked the Committee for their work, and speaking on behalf of the newly elected officers, pledged that they would do their best to remain true to the mission of this great university. He added that fellow Trustees should feel free to communicate any concerns they may have at any time. He is open to feedback and suggestions.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Renick briefly commented on the effects that the tragic events of September 11 have had on us all. He noted that on that same afternoon, a 1:30 p.m. all-campus meeting was called to address student concerns about the events, and he thought it appropriate to inform the Board on how the university was handling the tragedy. He called upon Dr. Wilson to share details about what was done in support of the students and the university community.

Dr. Wilson stated that consistent with the geographic location of our university, the entire Aggie Family—students, faculty and staff—who have family members and close friends in the areas of the attacks were affected by the tragedy. The university initially began working with students from the New York and New Jersey areas to be sure they were being taken care of. The next plan of action was to share during the all-campus gathering that the order of the day was to “remain as calm as possible and to try maintain as close to normal a routine as possible.” The gathering held at Harrison

Auditorium drew a capacity number—1200 people, while another 200 who were unable to get in waited outside the facility. Faculty took time to talk to students and allowed them to share their feelings. All during the afternoon students were able to seek counseling provided by a team of counselors drawn from across the university. Around-the-clock counseling services were set up to help students as they moved from the state of shock mode to reality. The Student Government Association organized a 3-hour session at the Student Union that evening that included student body members, faculty, staff, residence hall supervisors, ministers and other concerned citizens who were on hand to allow students to express their emotions. At midnight, the SGA sponsored a candle light vigil on the steps of the Memorial Union.

Dr. Wilson further stated that backup plans were in place through community resources with psychiatric and psychological services. University police were available via the hotline from 1:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m. There was also continued news coverage on big screen television in the ballroom so that students, and anyone else, could keep abreast of the unfolding events in a comfortable environment. She closed by stating that every effort possible was being put forth to comfort the students and emergencies were being handled on a case-by-case basis.

Chairman Shelton thanked Dr. Wilson for the report. Chancellor Renick commended the student leadership, the Division of Student Affairs and the whole administrative team for coming together after this tragedy and focusing on our students and the university community to lend their assistance during this time.

Chancellor Renick introduced the new senior administrators: Mr. Willie T. Ellis, Jr., who has been appointed Interim Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance and Mr. Rodney Harrigan, Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer. He noted that Mr. Ellis' appointment would go before the Board of Governors for approval on September 14. Both gentlemen were received by applause.

The Chancellor announced that the university reached a record number for fall enrollment totaling 8,300 students, which is approximately 500 above last year. This record is a result of A&T's long-term ability to continually attract people to attend, and the hard work by our staff and faculty. As we maintain and enhance our competitiveness, our numbers will continue to grow. Our last enrollment record occurred in 1992 with a count of 8,050 students.

In response to Mr. Bowden's question about the number of new freshman included in the overall enrollment number, Chancellor Renick said that of the 8,300 students, 1,754 were new freshmen. Mr. Bowden then asked what was the demographic breakdown of freshmen enrollment compared to previous years, and in relation to continuing students. Chancellor Renick responded that we are running slightly ahead in the freshman class noting that last year we reached a record in freshmen enrollment. He further noted that our numbers are increasing partly because of: 1) improvements in high

school graduation rates; 2) our retention efforts are beginning to take effect; and 3) our newly initiated and very involved first year program/orientation. This program focuses more on academic advisement and helping undeclared students choose a major. Mr. Bowden asked if the university has a retention monitoring system in place to determine improvements. Provost Meyers responded that statistics on retention are maintained in Institutional Research and that graduation rates and retention percentages are available on the Web. She further noted that we are able to monitor area-specific improvements. The Chancellor added that through our research, we have found that some of our prior issues with retention have been more related to non-academic issues, such as, housing and lack of adequate financial assistance and some program-specific concerns, in terms of majors offered. He further added that our expectation is that our percentages in retention should be going up.

Dr. Dorsett asked what percentage of the student enrollment are North Carolinians and what percentage comes from out-of-state. The Chancellor replied that about 19 percent come from out-of-state, the rest are from North Carolina. About 49 percent of all out-of-state students, including international students, come to A&T for engineering or technology. Dr. Truesdale then asked what percentage of freshmen students received financial aid. Chancellor Renick responded that the freshman profile receiving financial aid is not any different than the overall enrollment, which totals about 85 percent of the student body receiving some kind of aid from the university, federal or state governments.

Dr. Speight added that since the university has not yet received its budget, finances are going to be of great concern to our student body, particularly in light of the anticipated tuition increases. Many students have just been able to take care of current expenses and will likely have major concerns when additional charges are placed on their accounts. She challenged the Board to be proactive in finding ways to assist students financially that are not budget dependent.

Chancellor Renick announced that we are pleased to have Justice Henry E. Frye as an Endowed Chair holder in the Political Science Department. Our students are excited about having a Justice in the classroom and having an opportunity to get that level of expertise first hand. The Chancellor also briefly discussed his experience in residing in the dorms during the first of the month. It was a very fruitful experience being with the students.

The Chancellor then called upon Coach Roy Thompson to introduce the All-American Track Relay Team, which included Titus Haygood, Gerald Wright, Theodric Wilds and Timothy Walls. Coach Thompson shared with the Board their individual and collective accomplishments. Following brief remarks by the team, they were received with a round of applause.

Next, Chancellor Renick recognized the award-winning Model UN Team led by Dr. Samuel Moseley, Professor of Political Science with the assistance of Shauntai Dove, Secretary General and Graduate Research Assistant. He further noted the outstanding work Dr. Moseley is doing in the Political Science Department and in helping the team to become the strong competitors that they are. The team members were given an opportunity to introduce and tell something about themselves. Mr. Suggs asked the team what they do to win an award. Following Ms. Dove's explanation of how the team prepares for competitions, they were received with a round of applause.

Chancellor Renick stated that our students are extremely talented—academically and athletically—and we will bring a slice of student achievements to each Board meeting.

The Chancellor then presented an overview of the FUTURES Strategic Visioning Process for endorsement by the Board. This process, which will move the university into the future, was announced in fall of 2000 and officially initiated in January 2001. It began with the formulation of a Planning and Resource Council comprised of 23 members from a broad cross-section of individuals from inside the campus and from within the community. From this group, Internal and External Scan Teams as well as a Values Team were designated to analyze the current campus environment, and to develop three scenarios for discussion at numerous town meetings and during a two-day retreat held in April. From these sessions, one scenario was selected to be implemented over the next few years—the Interdisciplinary University. Chancellor Renick further presented five key goals formulated in support of the scenario. He noted that given the university's current momentum with a record year in enrollment, the significant increases in private giving, and the fact that we are more engaged in our community, now is the time to focus on our future, and FUTURES is a wonderful process by which to move A&T forward.

Following a brief question and answer session, a motion was made by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Mr. Bowden to endorse the FUTURES initiative. The motion was unanimously carried.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Shelton reported that the Executive Committee met on May 3 to approve a resolution granting an easement to Southern Bell for the A&T Foundation Student Suites. The Committee met again on May 9 to approve the promotion of Mr. Rodney Harrigan from Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Chief Information Officer to Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer. Both resolutions received unanimous approval.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman Shelton first extended a hearty welcome to the new Board members and stated that he looks forward to working with them. He noted that we had a strong and supportive group of Trustees to rotate off the Board in June, who did some tremendous things for the university, such as bringing Chancellor Renick to A&T.

Mr. Shelton mentioned that he would soon make Subcommittee appointments and referenced the list of committees and duties provided in the Board books. He stated that every attempt would be made to assign them to committees suited to their interests and expertise.

Chairman Shelton noted three primary things he believes the Board should keep in mind at all times: 1) the sound promotion and development of this institution; 2) the need to be actively involved in working with the Board of Governors to continue fostering support for the institution, and 3) the need to be advisors to the Chancellor to assist him in fulfilling the mission of the institution—being his eyes and ears as we move about in the community. He assured the Chancellor that the Board would continue to support him and A&T.

Dr. Speight asked about the status of the State budget. Mr. Ellis provided a brief update. Dr. Speight reminded the members that A&T is a State-assisted not a State-supported institution, and it will take the help of the Board whenever and wherever possible to find measures to bring additional funds to the institution.

Mr. Bowden mentioned that during the Board of Trustees Retreat/Orientation, there was a recommendation that the A&T Foundation and the Endowment Fund Committee report to the Board at least once a year. Mr. Shelton endorsed that suggestion and stated that efforts will be made to have those reports presented at the November meeting.

Chairman Shelton entertained a motion to go into Executive Session. A motion was made and properly seconded. The motion was carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION**Closed Session**

Chairman Shelton distributed a Trustee Communications Statement for review and approval by the Board. The Statement was drafted as the result of a suggestion made during the summer Retreat/Orientation for Board members to have a method of operation when they are personally contacted about concerns by constituents/stakeholders of the university – internal or external.

Following statements by Ms. Renwick, the content of the Statement was brought before the members for discussion. Upon scanning the Statement, Mr. Bowden suggested that the matter be discussed in Open Session since the document was designed to give direction on handling public inquiries and not designed as a policy.

Chairman Shelton entertained a motion to resume Open Session. A motion made by Ms. Bruce, was seconded by Dr. Truesdale, and was unanimously carried.

Open Session Resumes

Following the reading of the Statement, Mr. Shelton asked the Board for their input and suggestions. Mr. Isaacson suggested that in order to protect the level of confidentiality and confidence that a Stakeholder places in the contacted Trustee, he recommended that the last sentence in the statement be edited to read that after the Stakeholders concerns have gone through the appropriate channels, that the contacted Trustee relay the action to be taken by the university. Mr. Bowden and Dr. Dorsett concurred that Stakeholders deserve a courtesy response, when appropriate.

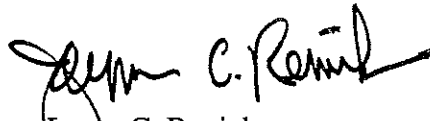
Chancellor Renick stated that when a stakeholder contacts a Trustee about something, the goal of the communication is to solve a foreseen problem and care must be taken so that the focus does not become the political representation of the Trustee.

Ms. Bruce suggested that if a response is provided to the Stakeholder by someone other than the Trustee initially contacted, that Trustee should be informed that the matter has been resolved.

Ms. Renwick provided a revision to reflect the suggestions provided by the Board. The edited phrase as presented was unanimously approved.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


James C. Renick
Assistant Secretary