

**Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes  
December 15, 2011**

**Board Members/Designees Present:** Senator Phillip Puckett, Senator William Wampler, Delegate Bill Carrico, Delegate Joe Johnson, Delegate Terry Kilgore, Delegate Dave Nutter, Billy Cannaday (UVA), Andy Casiello (ODU), Kevin Crutchfield, Ralph Byers (VT), Sim Ewing (UVA Wise), Marcia Gilliam (Virginia Community College System), Fred Marion, Sean McMurray, Clo Phillips (VI), John Rainero, Rosalind Reichard (Emory & Henry), Ron Proffitt (VHCC), Ruby Rogers.

**Board Members/Designees Absent:** Peter Blake (SCHEV), Susie Ellis, Penelope Kyle (Radford), Matthew O'Quinn.

**Others Present:** Jake Belue, Gerald Blankenship, Joyce Brooks, Connie Estep, Christine Fields, Rachel Fowlkes, Rebecca Harrison, Debbie Hensley, Kathy Hietala, George Hiller, LeAnn Hughes, Gregory Jordan, Jacob King, Penny McCallum, Paul Percy, Nicky Rahley, Ann Risdon, Ed Rogers, Janet Settle, Susan Short, Eddie Sproles, Kim Stewart, Sonia Vanhook, Alicia Young; **former Board Members:** Paul Grinstead, Deborah Icenhour, John Matney, Terry Mullins, Ford Quillen, Richard Settle, David Wilkin.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Kevin Crutchfield welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Introductions were held.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Crutchfield called for approval of the Minutes for the June 9, 2011 meeting. **They were unanimously approved upon motion by Delegate Nutter, seconded by Clo Phillips.**

## **Financial Report**

Deborah Hensley and Alicia Young presented the Financial Report for Quarters 1-2. The complete report is made available in each member's Board folder. Ms. Hensley highlighted the following items of note:

- FY11 Non-General Fund Carry Forward was greater than projected due to numerous expenses not posting in June 2011.
- Administrative Support category reflects a reduction due to vacancy of Director of Budget position.
- Undesignated Contingency funds will be used for various building improvement projects.

Alicia Young reported on grants information for the Higher Education Center and the Higher Education Center Foundation. The complete reports are contained in each member's Board folder.

Items of note – SW VA Higher Education Center Grants:

- U.S. Department of Education Business in International Education (DOE-BIE) "Global Clean Energy & STEM Jobs" – Year 2 funding reduced by 55%
- VA Tobacco Indemnification Commission (TIC) "Global Clean Energy & STEM Jobs" – Matching funds for DOE-BIE grant reduced for year 2
- TIC Engineers PRODUCED in Virginia – Subcontract of UVA award
- TIC Research and Development grants are not reflected on HEC Grant report. These were awarded to the SWVHEC Foundation.

Items of note – SW VA Higher Education Center Foundation Grants:

- Foundation account current balance: \$1,429,000, most of which is earmarked for specific TIC R&D grant projects.
- The balance includes: 1) \$66,231 (Higher Education Center); 2) \$45,000 (administrative support for Optafuel grant); 3) \$10,000 (Consulting fees from Clean Energy R&D).
- \$15,000 invoiced to Clean Energy for additional consulting fees.
- Foundation Income for the year: \$67,149.95; Expenses: \$47,017.36.

## **Research & Development Director's Report**

Ed Rogers, Director, provided an update on the Clean Energy Research & Development initiative (CER&D). The complete report is contained in each member's Board folder.

Highlights of Mr. Rogers' report included information about four companies that CER&D has attracted to the region:

- Optafuel US, Inc. – specializes in biochemical conversion of biomass to biomaterials and fuel.
- WireTough Cylinders, LLC – manufactures compressed natural gas vehicle fuel tanks.
- Renew Fuels, Inc. – purifies low-level methane-containing gases to pure methane for injection into natural gas pipelines.
- CavitroniX Corporation – developed a technology that improves the efficiency of oil-fired boilers.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Rachel Fowlkes gave her report, which included:

- A proposed legislative amendment was introduced for the Board's approval. In summarizing the report, Dr. Fowlkes said that its purpose is two-fold: 1) To welcome King College to the Higher Ed Center; and 2) To allow the Center's college partners more flexibility with courses and curriculum. Jake Belue, counsel for the Center in the Attorney General's office, said that the current statute only allows the Center to enter into agreement with certain education programs, specifically graduate programs and education. The proposed legislation would amend the statute to give the Center broader authority to enter into agreements in other instructional programs. It would continue to honor the Center's agreement with the Virginia Community College System and VHCC not to offer freshman and sophomore courses without specific permission. **Upon motion by Delegate Johnson, seconded by Delegate Carrico, the Board unanimously approved submission of the proposed legislation to the General Assembly.**
- Dr. Greg Jordan, President of King College, presented an update on the proposed King School of Medicine.
- The SWVHEC Budget Decision Package that was submitted to the Commonwealth in August for consideration in formulation of the State budget was discussed. The Center requested funding for three projects: 1) Internships in STEM Careers (a continuation of a Tobacco Commission project); 2) Replacement of the roof on the HEC (current roof is 15 years old); and 3) Operation support for the R&D building.
- Job description for the Center's Chief Financial Officer position (the position previously held by Chris Fields) was discussed. The Center plans to advertise the position by the end of the year.

- Attention was directed to the Internship Virginia Report provided by George Hiller, Director, and Ann Risdon, who assists in facilitating the program.
- A report on the recently held LEGO tournament, coordinated at the Center by Jeff Webb and Debbie Hensley, was discussed. For the first time, one of the teams from SW Virginia placed second in the state.
- Enrollment and College Reports were provided in Board folders.

Dr. Fowlkes presented the Trustees with gift certificates to participate in the Center's culinary program in the spring term, along with complimentary oven mitts.

Dr. Fowlkes noted that Alpha Natural Resources had been one of the Center's best customers, having held 175 events in the building during the past 18 months, generating \$43,094 in Center revenue.

Dr. Fowlkes announced that the Center was the recipient of the first-ever Dean's Award from the School of Allied Health at VCU for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesia program. The recognition award was presented at VCU's December graduation ceremonies held the previous weekend in Richmond.

Board members whose current terms have expired were presented with framed photographs of the Higher Education Center in appreciation of their service. The three board members are: Terry Mullins, Delegate Dave Nutter, and Kevin Crutchfield (who has been reappointed for another term).

### **Special Presentations**

Senator Phillip Puckett noted that the VCU Dean's Award had actually been presented to Rachel D. Fowlkes for her leadership and vision in bringing the Nurse Anesthesia program to southwest Virginia where it has enjoyed tremendous success.

Senator Puckett also presented a resolution proposing that the 2009 LEAD Gold Addition to the Higher Education Center be named Wampler Hall in grateful recognition of Senator William C. Wampler, Jr.'s twenty years of extraordinary leadership on the Board.

Upon Senator Puckett's motion; seconded by Delegate Johnson, **the Board unanimously approved adoption of the proposed resolution.**

Following the vote, the following individuals spoke in recognition and appreciation of Senator Wampler's service on the Board, and shared special memories of time spent with the Senator:

Delegate Terry Kilgore, who quoted one of Senator Wampler's favorite actor's, Don Knotts as Barney Fife, saying, "This is big!"

Chris Fields, who thanked the Senator for his guidance and mentorship over the 16 years she had had the privilege of working with him, saying that the Center would not be what it is today without him.

Delegate Joe Johnson, who said that he had served with Senator Wampler in the General Assembly for the past 24 years and that theirs had been a great relationship, expressed his appreciation for all that the Senator had done for the region during his time in office, and said that he is very proud of Wampler.

Senator Phillip Puckett, who served 13 Sessions with Senator Wampler, recounted the occasion of Senator Puckett's swearing in, when Senator Wampler came to the ceremony at the courthouse in Lebanon, figuratively reaching across the political aisle to bestow an old dirty car tag—#40—on the newly-elected senator and telling him to hold on to it until he received his own. Senator Puckett said how powerful that gesture had been to him, because he knew that Senator Wampler understood how important it was for the southwest delegation to work together for the good of the region, regardless of party affiliation.

Delegate Bill Carrico, who has been elected to succeed Senator Wampler, recalled a statement the Senator had made to him the first year Delegate Carrico was in office. He said that during a conversation in Wampler's office late one evening, Carrico stated that he was going home. Wampler asked where he was going, and Carrico said back to his apartment. Wampler told him not to ever call that apartment "home," because it's not your home. He said to remember that when you go home, you go back to southwest Virginia. Carrico said that statement made a real impact on him, because he realized that it was all about what they could do for southwest Virginia, and it took late, long hours to do it. Carrico also related an anecdote from a trip to Richmond with Senator Wampler in a blinding snowstorm. Carrico said that they were behind a tractor-trailer and Wampler, who was driving, wondered if the best thing to do was follow the tractor-trailer. Carrico

replied that he didn't know, but perhaps should if they could keep it in sight. They did follow it, and it was off in the median strip! Carrico concluded his remarks by saying that it would be tough for him to fill Wampler's shoes.

Delegate Dave Nutter said that he had served on the Joint Commission on Health Care in the General Assembly with Senator Wampler, an active member for many years. Nutter said that Wampler had been a champion for health care in the General Assembly for a long time, and thanked him for all he has done.

Rachel Fowlkes said that, even above the positive financial impact Senator Wampler's leadership has had for the Higher Education Center, she has valued the conversations where she and the Senator have sat down and problem solved, worked through, and looked "outside the box" literally at where the Center could do things more effectively and efficiently. Dr. Fowlkes expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the Senator for those conversations.

Dr. David Wilkin, former President of Virginia Highlands Community College, welcomed the opportunity to publicly thank Senator Wampler for all of his help and support. Dr. Wilkin said that he had had the pleasure of working with the Senator in a number of capacities, including in his role as Senator, with the Tobacco Commission through meetings, scholarships and program enhancements, and on Heartwood. Dr. Wilkin said that in trying to think of a quotation or witticism to kind of summarize Senator Wampler's work, he had come up with a variation of a familiar expression: "He's the kind of guy that gives politicians a *good* name."

Richard Settle, former Board member, guessed that he had known Senator Wampler probably as long as or longer than anyone in the room, having practiced his "craft" at the General Assembly for about 20 years. Mr. Settle said that the "hard questions" comments some of those present had made in speaking about Wampler were indicative of the kind of impact the Senator has had on public policy in Virginia for a number of years—not just financial policy, but broad public policy issues, for which Mr. Settle said that he is grateful. Mr. Settle said that he would remember the hard questions for a long time.

John Matney, former Board member, said that he had had the opportunity to work with Senator Wampler for 24 years, mostly in the coal business. He said that, although it is one of the most over-regulated industries in the country, those in the business always knew the Senator was there to lead the charge—whether it was an issue of old regulations, compensation, coal tax credit, or whatever the question was; you always knew you could count on Wampler. Matney echoed the remarks of others who had said that the Senator would definitely leave a footprint in this area for all his many accomplishments for the region, but that on a more personal note, a fact that many of those present may not have known is that it was actually Wampler that invented the Internet, and not Al Gore!

In response, Senator Wampler said that only once in one's professional career does one have the opportunity to provide remarks upon retirement. He remarked that he wanted to pick on Chairman Kevin Crutchfield to say that at the Alpha Natural Resources ribbon-cutting, Mr. Crutchfield had said to him that he wished the Senator well in his golden years. The Senator said that he is not a Latin scholar, but that he had some—it was Greek, he thought—verbiage that he wanted to reply to Mr. Crutchfield in! He expressed his appreciation to Dr. Rachel Fowlkes for the culinary gift certificates, saying that he would use them in his golden years, beginning in January. Although Judge Ford Quillen had left, Senator Wampler remarked that the former Speaker of the House of Delegates, who had been the "Dean" of the southwest delegation and a tireless advocate for the region in the 20 years preceding Wampler's first term of 1988. Senator Wampler said that the Higher Education Center would not be here today if it were not for the vision of Ford Quillen, who fathered a number of thoughts and left it up to others to move forward with the vision. Wampler said that he is so thankful for Quillen's vision and the burden that he still has placed upon his successors to move forward, as well as to Rachel Fowlkes in her vision for higher education—from operating out of the back of her car, to the Statzer's building on the four-lane, to here. He said it just does his heart good for all of the faculty, staff and partners, and that he would use one program to illustrate it; asking rhetorically where else one could bring visiting dignitaries and show them the Nurse Anesthetist program and say, "We've got it going on here at the HEC." Senator Wampler said he is very proud of that and everything else that the Center does. To all his colleagues, he said they are way too kind—that normally, when something is named, it is after a funeral! He wished them well, saying that his thoughts would be with them. Wampler extended special thanks to Kathy Hietala for

her work, went on to regale the assembly with a couple of jokes, and closed with his thanks to everyone.

### **Closing Remarks**

Chairman Kevin Crutchfield asked everyone to hold the date for the next meeting of the Board of Trustees: Thursday, June 7, 2012.

Dr. Fowlkes invited everyone to a dessert reception and time to speak with Senator Wampler personally immediately following the meeting.

Chairman Crutchfield called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion by Senator Wampler, seconded by Senator Puckett, and unanimously carried, **the meeting was declared adjourned.**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER**

**Naming of the 2009 LEED Gold Addition**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2011, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, held in the town of Abingdon, Virginia with a quorum of the trustees present, it was duly moved and seconded that the following Resolution be adopted:

Whereas, Senator William C. Wampler, Jr co-signed enabling legislation in the 1991 Session of the Virginia General Assembly to establish the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center; and

Whereas, Senator William C. Wampler, Jr secured General Obligation Bonds in 1992 to build the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center; and

Whereas, Senator William C. Wampler, Jr worked with Virginia Highlands Community College and the Virginia Community College System office to transfer land to the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center; and

Whereas, Senator William C. Wampler, Jr introduced numerous legislative amendments to provide fiscal support and capital expansion of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center; and

Whereas, Senator William C. Wampler, Jr was a Founding Member of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center Board of Trustees, and served several terms as its Chair and Vice Chair; and

Whereas, Senator William C. Wampler, Jr encouraged citizens to enroll in the academic programs that are provided by eleven colleges and universities at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center; and

Whereas, Senator William C. Wampler, Jr extensively promoted the use of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center's magnificent high technology facility; and

Whereas, Senator William C. Wampler, Jr supported the Virginia Tobacco Scholarship program and other requests for grant funding through Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Revitalization Commission to expand programs and facilities at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center do hereby authorize that the 2009 LEED Gold addition be named WAMPLER HALL in grateful recognition of Senator William C. Wampler, Jr's twenty years of extraordinary leadership on the Board.

The above resolution was passed unanimously by those present and voting in accordance with the by-laws.

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Chairman, Board of Trustees