



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Cooperating Raleigh Colleges

March 14, 2013, 3-5 p.m.
Lulu Robinson Manor House, Saint Augustine's University

Debra Townsley, CRC President, Presiding

In attendance: **Debra Townsley**, President of William Peace University and CRC Board President; **Stephen Scott**, President of Wake Technical Community College; **Dianne Suber** (on the phone), President of Saint Augustine's University; **Doris Bullock**, Special Assistant to the President of Saint Augustine's University; **Jose Picart**, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Services, North Carolina State University; **Lisa Zapata**, Vice Provost for Student Development, Health and Wellness, North Carolina State University, **Tony Tata**, North Carolina Secretary of Transportation; **Ashley Goolsby**, Assistant to Mr. Tata; **Jenny Spiker**, CRC Director.

Special guest and presenter Tony Tata, NC Secretary of Transportation
Topic: Bringing light rail to the Triangle

President Townsley introduced **Secretary Tata**, who was invited by the CRC Board to discuss how the colleges and universities can be involved in encouraging the development of **light rail in the Raleigh area**. Here are some of Secretary Tata's key points:

- The plan calls for light rail connecting Orange, Durham and all around Wake County, including the airport, colleges, etc.
- Durham and Orange Counties are on already on board with tax increases to support light rail, but that's not yet the case in Wake County. Wake County Commissioners hold a key to the decision. The funding plan calls for money from all three sources—the state, local and federal governments.
- He has talked at length with the Governor about transportation in the Triangle. He believes the governor is supportive of that, but the right funding has to be found in the right places.
- His Department of Transportation (DOT) is supportive of the Triangle concept. He thinks they need to stress the growing population over the next several years and the inadequacy of the road system. Repaving of 1-40 this summer will really demonstrate those inadequacies. He said that construction period may be a strategic time to show the need for light rail.
- In a way this is a statewide strategic project. It's not a simple approach even if all counties agree. It still has to go into the state's priorities. His sense is that this project would rank pretty high for all major criteria, but it would compete against other projects. If the state approves it, then it would go to the federal government to see if it fits those priorities.
- He suggested someone at the colleges could consider doing a thesis on this issue; they could work with the DOT.
- When Dr. Picart asked about the effect of sequestration on this project, Sec. Tata said they are still trying to figure that out.
- When Dr. Scott asked if the Wake County tax rate would be affected, Sec. Tata said he thought it would be, by about a ½ cent.
- Right now Johnston Co. isn't a part of the plan.

- Sec. Tata said he met recently with some Wake County commissioners about the plan and he thinks they are interested in it. County Commissioner Joe Bryan told him he thinks transit and education are comingled right now in considering resources. Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarland is also interested in it, he said.
- Dr. Townsley asked: **What should CRC do now?** Sec. Tata said he'd like to go back and get some more background and then he'll frame this strategically for us. He'll get back to us in next several months. Again, he said that the period during I-40 construction may be a good time to apply pressure. He also said that what happens with the bills proposed for school funding and control are likely to affect this issue. If the county gets more school funding power, they may be willing to do more about this project. He suggested we might want to ask the Chamber of Commerce to do a poll on the area's appetite for more transit options.

CRC Information Topics

- **Wake Technical Community College Membership Transition:** The group welcomed President Stephen Scott, Wake Technical Community College president, in light of his institution's joining the consortium officially July 1, 2013. Ms. Spiker talked about how the transition planning is underway. She met that morning with the two key liaisons from Wake Tech; Bryan Ryan, Senior Vice President, Curriculum Education Services, and Rita Jerman, Senior Vice President of Student Services. The CRC registrars will be meeting this spring with the Wake Tech registrar to orient Wake Tech and the other members to involving Wake Tech students in cross-registration.
 - Dr. Townsley also reminded the group that they will be considering inviting the Campbell University Law School located in Raleigh to CRC membership.
- **Channel 18 Transition:** Ms. Spiker gave an update on the transition from the technical home for the channel at NC State's DELTA offices to the Raleigh Television Network (RTN) offices as a part of the City of Raleigh, where the other PEG channels are located. She said the major change has taken place and is going well so far. It was quite involved to get to this point as we had to go through a political process with the city council and then had to get a new connection through Time Warner Cable and then move equipment from DELTA to RTN and some to the CRC office at Meredith. This is also the first schedule without the DELTA courses. She said that opens up space for new kinds of content. Also, Wake County has asked about using Channel 18 to host its County Commissioner meetings. Ms. Spiker said she thought that could work now without the DELTA courses, and it fits the relationship we have already developed with the County. Wake County is the government entity that signs up with the State to get part of the funding for the Channel since RTN was already tapped out with the number of PEG channels it could certify with the state. So the County acts as the go-between (certifier) for the state PEG funding. Ms. Spiker reminded the group again about the amount of the CRC budget connected to Channel 18—at least \$60,000 a year of the \$100,000+ budget.
- **The Raleigh Promise:** Dr. Picart, who is the leader of The Raleigh Promise in addition to his other NCSU position, reported on this project that CRC has been very involved in the past two years:
 - He said the project is humming along although it is approaching a crossroad as the Gates Foundation grant expires at the end of this May. That money has funded a Fellows Liaison and intern for each of the six campuses.
 - The RCCC is focused on a number ways to create sustainability beyond the grant. One approach is in talking to the partners, including the colleges, and asking for more skin in the game to go forward.
 - One part of the transition is to get funding for a full-time executive director. He will stay on in his volunteer role until that is established. He is also working with the Chamber of Commerce in creating a business advisory group.
 - He reminded the group of the four parts of The Promise: 1—The Fellows, led in part by CRC, 2—The Scholars, the high school part led by Wake County Public Schools, 3—The College Center at the Chavis Community Center, and 4—Community-based life skills coaches.

- Dr. Townsley asked what happens financially after June. He said they have some funds in hand and some grants are pending, including a major one from the National Science Foundation for the high school students. There's a little under \$100,000 left in June and that will be used for some programming and developing a fund-raising plan.
 - Going forward with the colleges and universities, the Liaisons' funding from Gates will end in June so the colleges have to decide if they will keep them on or incorporate the program into other programs on their campuses.
 - Ms. Spiker said she thinks CRC can keep it going in some ways as a subgroup likes others in the consortium but not at the same level and concentration as with the paid Liaisons. She stressed that one of the many benefits of the Fellows program is that it has brought together students from all of the campuses better than any other CRC-type program since she has been involved the past seven years.
 - It's likely that going forward the Raleigh Fellows can be a broader group of students—beyond Raleigh-only residents required under the Gates grant--to cover the county and perhaps surrounding counties. Its emphasis will likely continue to be retention and community connections for low-income students.
- **CRC Budget:** (See packet for the updated copy.) Ms. Spiker reported that we are on track for this year's budget projections.
 - **June meeting**—The CRC Board will meet June 5th at William Peace University for a business meeting and then for a reception with members of all of the institutions' executive committee members. Agenda items will include commissioning a new economic impact study, next year's budget and overviews from the committee chairs. Dr. Townsley also asked Board members to start thinking about a community forum for next year. She said we'd follow the plan from this year: three meetings with one focused on a specific topic like today's meeting. She also reminded the group that the new bylaws include the chairs of the three main committees as members of the Board. Those are the Chief Academic Officers, Chief Student Affairs Officers and the Chief Financial Officers. Ms. Spiker said the finance officers will meet in April.

--Submitted by Jenny Spiker, Board Secretary and CRC Director