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Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

PRESS RELEASE

200 West Jones Street ■ Raleigh, North Carolina 27603 ■ www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

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CONTACT: Megen George georgem@nccommunitycolleges.edu

PHONE: (919) 807-6962

State Board Adopts Rules Allowing State Mandated Flexible Furloughs for NC Community Colleges Employees

RALEIGH – The State Board of Community Colleges met via telephone today and approved the adoption of rules in response to Governor Perdue’s Executive Order 11, outlined a plan of action in developing an admission policy for undocumented students and heard a summary report on the licensure passing rates for nursing graduates.

Executive Order 11, a mandate issued by the Governor in April, required all teachers, state employees and employees paid by funds within the 2008 Appropriations Act to take a .5 percent reduction in their annualized salary and to receive in return 10 hours of flexible leave. The order stated that the State Board must adopt rules to be applied by boards of trustees of community colleges in designating the times community college employees may take the designated flexible furlough leave. Today, the Board passed an emergency rule allowing the leave time to be taken between May 15 and December 31, 2009.

In his report to the State Board, Policy Committee Chair Dr. Stuart Fountain said the committee had developed a plan of action to move forward in crafting a policy relating to the admission of undocumented students. The committee has scheduled a special meeting on June 18 at Randolph Community College at 10 a.m. to deliberate the policy options outlined in the [consultant report](#) received by the board in April. Fountain said he anticipates the committee will have more to report when the full board convenes during its regular meeting in July. The June 18 meeting is a public meeting.

The Board received a summary from Program Services Chair Norma Turnage, outlining the 2008 passing rates for nursing graduates in the North Carolina Community College System. The

average scores for [NC Community Colleges exceeded both the state and national averages](#) for 2008.

In other business, the Board approved of the licensure of 65 proprietary schools for the period beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010, and the appointment of Dr. Richard Mauney, as interim president of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in Asheville. The college is beginning the process of a new presidential search, and Mauney has been serving as acting President since March. Previously, Mauney served as the school's Executive Vice President of Finance and Information Systems Technology. The State Board also approved the licensure of a new proprietary school, the Computer Graphics Learning Center, and the amendment of guidelines related to customized training programs.

Dr. Bob Greene, chair of the Nominating Committee for the State Board, submitted for nomination Board Chair, Hilda Pinnix-Ragland and Vice Chair, Dr. Linwood Powell for another two-year term. The full board will vote on the nominations during the July meeting. At that time, the floor will also be open to additional nominations.

During his [President's Report](#) to the State Board, Dr. Scott Ralls said despite the challenges from our state's budget woes, May is "the best of times" at North Carolina community colleges. He referenced the many commencement and [Academic Excellence Awards](#) celebrations he has had the opportunity to attend in recent weeks. "Our classrooms and hallways are absolutely full of heroes," Ralls said, "and May is the month when those heroic stories really emerge."

The State Board of Community Colleges will not meet again until July 16 -17 when they convene in person at the Caswell Building in Raleigh. May's telephonic meeting was held as a cost-cutting measure, and the Board does not have a meeting scheduled for June.

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