Welcome and Introductions

Patrick Ko called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Mr. Ko expressed his appreciation for being selected to act as Interim Chair in the absence of Chair, Dan O’Leary, and asked everyone to keep Mr. O’Leary in their prayers. Each Trustee introduced themselves.

SUCCESS

President’s Report

Mr. Rob Watts thanked everyone for being at the meeting and for their continued service to the college. Mr. Watts stated that we are waiting on the results of the college’s state audit but
that he feels confident the results will be positive and reflect the great efforts that have been made across the college. He believes all of our financial issues have been resolved. While the results will not be ready in time for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) meeting in December 2013, he expects that they will be ready and considered at SACS’ meeting in June, 2014.

Mr. Watts shared that the college has engaged an external agency to conduct focus groups with students and prospective students to look at our policies and procedures for Admissions and Financial Aid. Mrs. Barbara Obrentz and her staff in the Department of Marketing and Public Relations have played a critical role in the process that has been partially funded by the GPC Foundation. We wanted to know a few things including: what students’ experiences are at GPC; what they are saying about us; what we can do better; what we do well.

We learned some interesting things. The results were: 1) Students love the faculty and have great experiences with the faculty; 2) They love the low cost of attending Georgia Perimeter College. They know the cost is low relative to other institutions within the University System of Georgia. 3) They love the convenience of schedules. Classes are available any time of the day, night, weekend, and online. 4) They love the transferability of credits.

What don’t they like about GPC? The students think our admission process is a little bureaucratic. They have a challenge dealing with the admissions, financial aid, testing, and advising offices. We do not offer them the kind of experience they get on places like Amazon.com, where they deal with one interface. These, of course, are students from a different generation than us. When they go to Amazon.com they deal with one person. So essentially, we have learned a lot from the focus groups and will put those things learned into practice within the next nine months.

Mr. Watts has been speaking to various civic groups and realizes that some people do not really know how affordable GPC is. It costs $113.00 a week to attend GPC. A family can spend more in daycare during the same time period. At that cost, there is no reason why someone out who wants to, cannot attend college. GPC is very affordable and that is surprising to most individuals. Mr. Watts stressed the value of a Liberal Arts Degree. With a Liberal Arts degree, individuals can transition from job-to-job by obtaining transferable skills like people, communication, and quantitative skills.

Mr. Watts also mentioned that the search for a President will possibly begin next summer or fall, after the SACS decision. The college wants to get the best candidate and GPC will not find the best candidate until all of the outstanding issues are resolved. President Watts addressed the comment regarding whether he could remain the President of GPC. He mentioned that
according to the Board of Regents’ polices he could not be considered for the position because he is serving as interim president.

Mr. Ko thanked President Watts for all he has done for Georgia Perimeter College.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ko asked for a motion to accept and approve the minutes for the June 19, 2013 Board of Trustees meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously, with no opposition.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Barry Gray presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending September 30, 2013 for information purposes. He mentioned that the year-end audit had been completed and was presented to the Finance Committee.

Investment Report

The investment report was presented by Mr. Henry Yu, member of the Finance Committee, in the absence of Ms. Kelli Rogan who was ill with the flu. My Yu mentioned that the Foundation had a great year and will finish over 26% in the positive. The stock market performed well this year and we are expecting the same momentum going into 2014. He also mentioned that the bond market continues to pose a challenge but overall we are in good shape.

Foundation Audit Report

Ms. Vicki Carew presented the Foundation’s 2012 Audit Report. Simmons and Jameison completed the audit in August. We received a request from the college’s accounting team to change the format of the audit and the new format reflects the change where the Foundation’s operating financials are reported separately in the audit from the LLC’s. Overall, we are in great standing.

She presented the proposed 2014 General Fund budget for the period January 1 through December 31, 2014. The General Fund budget is supported through unrestricted gifts that we receive as well as proceeds from the annual Golf Tournament.
Ms. Carew mentioned the change of format to the General Fund budget. All of the items are listed in different categories: mandatory expenses that we have for Foundation operations such as insurance, bond fees, audit, and online giving fees; community and civic engagement which include membership fees and engagement of local chambers; academic, student and programmatic support which includes funding for financial affairs, academic affairs and student affairs to support activities and initiatives across the college such as Fall Convocation and Staff and Faculty Development Days; private support development covers the cost of ongoing cultivation of donors that fund the work of the college.

The General Fund budget was approved unanimously.

**Announcement/Upcoming Events**

Vicki Carew thanked Kitty Gold, outgoing President of the GPC Alumni Association board, for her service on the Foundation Board this year.

She also shared the dates for the 2014 Board of Trustee meetings and indicated that the meetings will rotate to allow Trustees the opportunity to visit the other campuses.

**Adjournment**

Patrick Ko thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone Happy Holidays. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 P.M.