

**State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education**

Board Room  
111 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia, SC 29210

*Via Zoom*

**Meeting Minutes**

10:00 A.M.

March 23, 2021

**PRESENT:**

Gregory B. Askins, Chair  
E. Grantland Burns  
Montez C. Martin  
Ralph A. Odom, Jr.  
Roger P. Schrum  
Karen Woodward, *via phone*  
Matthew L. Yaun, *via phone*  
Daniel Young

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Hardee, System President  
Joren Bartlett, Vice President of Governmental Affairs  
Amy Firestone, Vice President of Apprenticeship Carolina  
Warren Ganjehsani, Chief Legal Counsel  
Randall Johnson, Vice President for Finance  
Brad Neese, Vice President of Economic Development  
Kandy Peacock, Vice President for Human Resources  
Kelly Steinhilper, Vice President for Communications  
Rosline Sumpter, Interim Executive Vice President  
Khushru Tata, Vice President for Information Technology

**ABSENT:**

Anthony Garvin Barker  
Robert E. Barnett  
Gwendolyn A. Bright  
Warren L. Helm  
Philip G. Homan

**ABSENT:**

Karen Taylor

**GUESTS:**

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, President, Horry-Georgetown Technical College  
Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director, SC Association of Technical College Commissioners  
Regine Rucker, Program Manager, Academic Affairs, SC Commission on Higher Education

**NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA**

The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education complied with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act in notifying the media and posting the agenda for the State Board meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Gregory B. Askins, Chair

Chairman Askins called the meeting to order and welcomed guests: Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, President, Horry-Georgetown Technical College; Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director, SC Association of Technical College Commissioners; and Regine Rucker, Program Manager, Academic Affairs, SC Commission on Higher Education.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORTS:**

**A. Economic Development and Training Committee – E. Grantland Burns, Chair**

Chairman Askins reported that Grantland Burns is the new Chair for the Economic Development and Training Committee and gave the floor to him.

Project Budgets for Ratification: Mr. Burns stated that there were no project budgets for approval over \$200,000. He requested Brad Neese display the project budgets for ratification under \$200,000 on the screen. Mr. Burns reviewed the five projects noting a particular project that was developing in a distressed area. There were no questions.

E-Zone Retraining Programs for Ratification: Mr. Burns reviewed the three E-Zone retraining programs for approval which Mr. Neese displayed on the screen. He opened the floor for questions and hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the project budgets for ratification and the E-Zone retraining programs. Mr. Martin moved and was seconded by Mr. Odom. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

Chairman Askins stated that Mr. Barnett was previously chairing the Committee, and that he and Mr. Burns met this past week with Mr. Neese.

**B. Fiscal, Audit, and Personnel Committee – Roger P. Schrum, Chair**

Chairman Askins gave the floor to Mr. Schrum. He stated that the Committee has one action item and two informational items on the agenda.

Technical College of the Lowcountry Proposed Sale of Properties for Approval- Mr. Schrum referenced the policy and procedure that was included in the agenda package. The Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) is requesting to sell five residential rental properties the College acquired between 2000 and 2015 with local capital funds. All five are located just north of the College campus adjacent to the Beaufort River in the Hundred Pines Neighborhood. Three of the houses are occupied on a month-by-month lease; two are on one-year lease agreements which expire in June and September of this year. Each will require extensive renovation to maintain in good rental condition and the College has decided it does not want to spend additional capital to maintain them. All the properties are small three-bedroom, two-bathroom single-family homes. TCL will notify

the tenants of the sale and will hire a real estate agent to assist in the process. Given the current state of the housing market, the College stands to gain some money during the sale. Proceeds will be retained by TCL for future capital needs. TCL has gone through the process of determining the properties as excess and will be disposed of with the approval of the State Board. The Fiscal, Audit, and Personnel Committee recommends approval of the property sale subject to other necessary approvals. There were no questions. Mr. Schrum entertained a motion to approve the sale on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Martin moved and was seconded by Mr. Yaun. The affirmative motion passed unanimously.

Staff Approvals for January 2021 – March 2021- Mr. Schrum noted the staff approval list included in the agenda package which contained staff approvals for minor budget changes for projects at Orangeburg-Calhoun and Piedmont Technical Colleges, and two projects at Spartanburg Community College.

State Board Financial Summary – Month Ending February 28, 2021- Mr. Schrum noted the list that was included in the agenda package and stated that there were no specific items that needed attention. He stated that Randy Johnson was available to answer any questions.

Coronavirus Stimulus Bills Summary- Hearing none, Mr. Schrum reported that he requested Mr. Johnson and Dr. Hardee conduct research for the Board regarding the financial benefits the sixteen technical colleges have experienced from the funding available through the Coronavirus Stimulus Funds which has totaled \$4T in supplemental spending statewide. The total allocations to the technical colleges including operational and student funding amounts to approximately \$350M. Mr. Schrum gave the floor to Dr. Hardee. He commented that everyone was surprised at the amount of money the technical college system received in stimulus funding and he gave the floor to Mr. Johnson.

He displayed a spreadsheet indicating the total HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund- Institutional and Student Aid) allocations each college received under the three stimulus bills- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) Act, and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. He gave the history of each of the three bills as follows:

- The CARES Act was passed in March of 2020 which allocated \$52.4M, of which half had to be dispersed to students as emergency payments; the other half retained at the colleges. The emergency payments were dispersed to students in April and May.

- The CRRSA Act was passed in December of 2020 which allocated \$107.7M to the colleges. Under the law the colleges were required to disperse the exact same amount that they dispersed to students under the CARES Act.
- The ARP Act was passed in March of 2021 which allocated an estimated total of \$188M of which half is designated as a student portion.

The student portion allocation totals \$146.5M. The \$201.8M that the colleges retained can be used for three purposes under the law- 1) to offset/defray expenses incurred due to COVID which includes lost revenue (due to enrollment declines, auxiliary enterprises, etc.); 2) to defray expenses that they would not have incurred due to the pandemic, i.e., air ventilation work, supply purchasing, social distancing related costs, etc.; and 3) for student aid (which can be applied toward tuition and fees or any other student cost).

Under the final stimulus bill the state will receive a significant amount of money- \$2.95B. Local governments will receive \$1.5M and the state will receive another \$188M for capital projects. In total, SC will receive another \$3.8B aside from the HEERF Allocations Mr. Johnson previously discussed. There was discussion regarding K-12 and four-year institutions' stimulus funding as well as restrictions regarding use of the funds. Mr. Johnson stated that the Department of Education is responsible for regulating proper use of the funds. He also gave specifics regarding time limits for disbursements.

Chairperson Askins inquired whether any of the technical colleges received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. Mr. Johnson stated that Denmark and Northeastern Technical Colleges were the only two colleges that participated. Both received PPP loans under the CARES Act. Northeastern's debt was forgiven. He believes Denmark's was also, but he has not received confirmation yet. The bar for forgiveness was using the funding for payroll. Mr. Johnson stated that the CRRSA Act also provided PPP loans, but that none of the colleges qualified for them due to increased revenue from all the stimulus funding. Additional funding was provided to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and any institution serving primarily minorities. Fifteen of the sixteen technical colleges received the additional funding on top of the HEERF allocations. He provided details regarding those additional funds. Dr. Hardee provided insight regarding how the colleges are stewarding the funds. He plans to provide a status report reflecting how the colleges have spent the additional funds to present to the Board at the May or July meeting. The Board members thanked Mr. Johnson for his informative presentation.

**C. Instruction and Student Services Committee – Rosline Sumpter on behalf of Philip G. Homan, Chair**

Web and Digital Content Accessibility Policy and Procedure for Approval- Rosline Sumpter reported that the Web and Digital Content Accessibility Policy and Procedure

were both reviewed and approved by the Presidents' Council at their February 2021 meeting. The policy and accompanying procedure have been developed in response to a 2013 resolution agreement between the SC Technical College System and the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. To maintain consistency with other State Board policies and procedures, the current Web Accessibility Policy was divided into a short policy and a more comprehensive procedure was developed. Revisions included a reassignment of the responsible division, updates to current terminology and applicable federal laws, and an inclusion of definition. Dr. Sumpter referenced the memo that was included in the agenda package which outlined the specific revisions for the policy and procedure in further detail. The Office for Civil Rights also provided technical assistance prior to the policy and procedure's review and approval. She opened the floor for questions. Hearing none, Chairman Askins entertained a motion for approval. Mr. Yaun moved and was seconded by Mr. Young. The motion passed unanimously, and the policy and procedure were approved.

### **ADJORN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Chairman Askins adjourned the Committee of the Whole and called the State Board to order.

### **CALL TO ORDER- STATE BOARD MEETING**

Chairman Askins called the State Board Meeting to Order. Chairman Askins stated that he needed to rearrange the agenda a bit since a few Board members needed to leave the meeting early.

### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Chairman Askins entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the State Board meeting on January 26, 2021. Mr. Burns moved and was seconded by Mr. Martin. The affirmative vote passed unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS-CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Askins entertained a motion for State Board approval of the Committee of the Whole recommendations. Mr. Odom moved, followed by Mr. Yaun, for adoption of all Committee of the Whole Recommendations. The motion carried and the following recommendations were adopted unanimously without discussion:

- Project Budgets for State Board Ratification
- Board Ratifications for E-Zone Retraining Program
- Technical College of the Lowcountry Proposed Sale of Properties for Approval
- Web and Digital Content Accessibility Policy and Procedure for Approval
- State Board Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2021

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Joren Bartlett, Vice President of Governmental Relations**

Ms. Bartlett stated that the House Ways and Means gave their budget recommendations about

two weeks ago. She reported that the technical college system received its request (apart from receiving no recurring funding.) Budget recommendations for the System were as follows:

- \$51M Lottery Tuition Assistance, of which 92 % comes to the System (\$47M)
- \$17M for SCWINS
- \$18M for equipment
- \$16M for Workforce Scholarships and Grants
- \$10.2M for maintenance, renovation, and repair (from Capital Reserve Fund)
- \$2.5M for readySC™

The House announced that this is their first draft of the budget. To keep the process moving they will be on the House floor starting the week of March 22nd. Once the House completes its version, the Senate will have their turn. Once the Senate passes their version, they send it back to the House for them to amend again. That version is considered the House 2 budget. The hope is that the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) will have met and potentially changed the revenue estimate for the state at that point. The BEA has a lot of hesitations in changing the estimate currently due to the uncertainties of the economy and potential tax season issues. If there are additional funds added to the estimate, then the House 2 budget may be very different than the budget is currently. Chairman Murrell Smith advised the members of the Ways and Means Committee to be prepared to come back possibly in May or June for a special session to finish the budget which may change now that the tax filing date has been extended.

Dr. Hardee and Executive Staff will be making a presentation to the Senate Finance Committee on April 6, 2021. It will be different than the House hearing and will involve a brief ten-minute presentation with time for questions afterwards. She will distribute budget information as it is processed and will keep everyone informed. The Senate plans to adjourn on May 14<sup>th</sup> but there is a strong potential that they will be going in for a special session after that to complete the budget before July. She opened the floor for questions. Mr. Young inquired about the Senate potentially returning for a special session. Ms. Bartlett stated that they would draft a continuing resolution giving them the ability to work on certain matters including the budget and any conference reports that were not completed before they adjourned; the main reason the Senate would come back into session is to finalize the budget.

### **SC ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE COMMISSIONERS' REPORT – Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director**

Ms. Jaillette reported that the annual SC Association of Technical College Commissioners' (SCATCC) Academy is scheduled the afternoon of February 2, 2022 at the Capital City Club followed by the Legislative Reception at 5 p.m. The SCATCC Board met on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and is scheduled to meet again on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The nominating committee will vote on its new slate of officers at that time. The SCATCC will hold a Lunch and Learn sometime in April. Ms. Jaillette is in the process of planning and will distribute the details once they are finalized. Since the legislature is in session this week, Billy Routh is at the State House.



**COUNCIL OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE PRESIDENTS' REPORT** – Marilyn Murphy Fore,  
**Chair Presidents' Council**

Chairperson Fore reported that the Presidents' Council met on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The presidents felt that the annual Leadership Academy which assists selected faculty/staff members from the technical colleges to move into next level leadership has been very beneficial and they voted to continue funding the program for the FY 2021-2022 cohort with \$35,000 from the Priority Initiative Funds. They discussed the budget information which Ms. Bartlett has already shared with the Board. The presidents also discussed some matters dealing with the Commission on Higher Education (CHE). Chairperson Fore suggested the presidents come up with united front prior to the Council of the Presidents' meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> since one of the key topics on their agenda is dual enrollment. Chairperson Fore created a dual enrollment committee headed by Dr. Patty Lee, Williamsburg Technical College President, to assess the topic before the meeting. The presidents also heavily discussed performance funding indicators (PFIs). Mr. Johnson and Rosline Sumpter gave a presentation on the topic. The Chief Business Officers, Chief Academic Officers, and Institutional Effectiveness Officers reviewed the PFIs, and their recommendations were presented to the presidents. Due to the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic, the presidents decided to not make any changes to the PFIs at the meeting. They plan to discuss the topic again during the retreat in July.

Chairperson Fore stated that she had multiple conversations with Ms. Jaillette regarding the partnership between the Presidents' Council and the SCATCC. She is looking forward to defining specific goals for the two groups in the nearby future.

CHE invited thirteen of the sixteen technical colleges' students to participate in the Student Advisory Council. Students chosen shared their opinions regarding barriers and successes at the colleges during the March 4<sup>th</sup> CHE meeting.

Chairperson Fore appointed a nominating committee to nominate a Chair-Elect for the upcoming 2022-2023 fiscal year. Dr. Galen DeHay will replace Dr. Fore as Chair in July. She appointed Drs. Miller, Mikota and Gough to be members of the committee; Dr. Gough will Chair.

Chairperson Fore reported that the colleges were working diligently to return students to campus safely full-time. They were required to submit plans to the Office of Administration and provide justification if all employees had not returned completely by March 15<sup>th</sup>. She explained Horry-Georgetown Technical College's plan to return. She reported that the colleges are being good stewards of the stimulus money they have received which Mr. Johnson reported on previously. She provided some examples of how the colleges were spending the additional funds.

**MINUTES FOR REVIEW**

Chairman Askins stated that minutes of the January 14, 2021 and February 18, 2021 Presidents' Council meetings were included with the agenda materials distributed prior to the meeting for review.

He noted that during the January meeting, Dr. Fore welcomed two new presidents- Dr. Hope Rivers to Piedmont Technical College, and Dr. Kevin Pollock to Central Carolina Technical College. Also, Dr. Rutherford announced that he will be retiring from York Technical College (YTC) in July. Nick Odom will assist with the presidential search committee for YTC. Chairman Askins reported that Roger Schrum has been assigned to the presidential search committee which is in the process of finding a president for Florence-Darlington Technical College. Lastly, Ms. Bartlett also identified new legislative members and their committee assignments which Chairman Askins felt was very informative.

Chairman Askins summarized some matters that were addressed at the February Presidents' Council meeting including the presentation of the *I Defy* campaign by Brains on Fire. He thanked Dr. Fore for her thorough report.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Hardee, System President**

**SC Technical College Week-** Dr. Hardee announced that the Governor proclaimed this week as “SC Technical College Week” for the state. Dr. Hardee and Kelly Steinhilper created an op-ed piece highlighting the benefits of the Technical College System that the *Post & Courier* ran this week. After the meeting today, Ms. Steinhilper will distribute an email containing links to a video highlighting the celebratory week. He encouraged the Board members to check out the links.

**Senate Finance Committee Budget Presentation-** Dr. Hardee stated that Ms. Bartlett mentioned the Senate Finance Committee Budget Presentation he and System Staff will be presenting on April 6<sup>th</sup>. One of the questions he plans to raise is why the SC Technical College System received such a low percentage of the capital reserve funding. He explained that in the House's version of the budget, they designated \$165M for capital reserve funding for higher education. Only \$10M was allotted for the technical college system. The System is grateful to be receiving money to put towards deferred maintenance funds for the colleges; however, allocations to the University of South Carolina and Clemson University were in the \$25M-\$30M range. Given that the System serves roughly 40-50% of the students in SC, Dr. Hardee feels the portion allotted to the technical college system should be much greater. He hopes that after he presents to the Senate, they will then address the issue with the House.

**Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund Update-** At the last Board meeting, Dr. Hardee shared that the Governor received \$48M of discretionary funds, identified as the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds. The Governor announced last month that \$8M would be designated for the technical college system. The System presented a proposal to him concerning unemployment in SC and he awarded \$8M for the System to provide short-term training statewide. The System has awarded half of the \$8M to the colleges so far. Dr. Hardee noted that Horry-Georgetown Technical College had already spent their portion of the funding and President Fore requested additional funding. He is thankful that the colleges are using the money to train individuals and hopefully substantially reduce the 80,000 unemployed South Carolinians, getting them back to work as quickly as possible.



Dr. Hardee noted that the Board members should review his report that was included in the agenda package listing his activities and events since the last meeting.

**SC Technical College Tuition Freeze for 2021 – 2022 Academic Year-** Dr. Hardee stated that he gave a recommendation to the area commissions and the presidents to freeze tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year. He noted that the area commissions are responsible for setting tuitions for the technical colleges, not the State Board or himself. His reasons for doing so included declining student enrollment during the midst of a pandemic and the large amounts of stimulus funding the colleges have been receiving. He felt it would have sent the wrong message for the colleges to raise tuition during this uncertain time. Dr. Hardee noted that historically he has not given his opinion regarding tuition, but due to the ongoing pandemic, he felt it was not a good idea to raise it. He also stated it was beneficial for the colleges to address large items such as tuition, collectively as a System. There were no questions.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Askins stated that an Executive Session was needed due to the following:

*S.C. Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a) (1) – “Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body...”*

He called for a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Young motioned and was seconded by Mr. Yaun. The affirmative vote passed unanimously, and the Board moved into Executive Session.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Mr. Martin motioned to come out of Executive Session and was seconded by Mr. Schrum. The Committee returned to Open Session. Chairman Askins stated that no action was taken during Executive Session.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

Chairman Askins shared that he and Dr. Hardee discussed the FY 2021-2022 State Board meeting schedule. The 2022 March State Board meeting was scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup>, but they decided to amend the date to March 23<sup>rd</sup>, to coincide with the Legislative Luncheon at the State House. He entertained a motion to amend the FY 2021-2022 meeting schedule to reflect the date change. Mr. Schrum motioned and was seconded by Mr. Odom. The affirmation motion passed with no discussion.

Chairman Askins referenced the recent email containing the *I Defy* campaign video clip and commended Ms. Steinhilper for her hard work on the campaign.

Chairman Askins reminded the Board that the deadline to submit their Statement of Economic Interests Reports to the State Ethics Commission is March 30, 2021, at noon, if they had not already done so.

### **ADJOURN STATE BOARD**

With no other matters to discuss, Chairman Askins adjourned the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education meeting.

### **CALL TO ORDER – FOUNDATION MEETING**

Chairman Askins gave the floor to Mr. Burns to report on the Foundation Account. He stated that he had just received a recent statement and that the balance had increased to approximately \$600,000.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

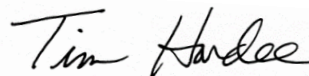
With no other matters to discuss, Chairman Askins requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Odom moved and was seconded by Mr. Yaun. The meeting was adjourned.

March 23, 2021

Date Approved by the State Board



Gregory B. Askins, Chairman



Tim Hardee, Executive Director