

State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education

Board Room
111 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, SC 29210

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

10:00 A.M.

May 25, 2021

PRESENT:

Gregory B. Askins, Chair
Anthony Garvin Barker
Gwendolyn A. Bright
E. Grantland Burns
Philip G. Homan
Montez C. Martin
Ralph A. Odom, Jr.
Roger P. Schrum
Karen Woodward
Matthew L. Yaun
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:

Warren L. Helm

SYSTEM STAFF ABSENT:

Karen Taylor

GUESTS:

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, President, Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Dr. Michael Mikota, President, Spartanburg Community College
Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director, SC Association of Technical College Commissioners
Regine Rucker, Program Manager, Academic Affairs, SC Commission on Higher Education
Michael Forrester, Vice President for Economic Development, Spartanburg Community College

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 (CHE).

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORTS:

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

Project Budget for State Board Approval: Chairman Askins gave the floor to Mr. Burns who motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss an approval project over \$200,000 which was seconded by Mr. Odom. The motion passed unanimously, and they entered into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

S.C. Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a)(2)(5) – A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:

(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim....

(5) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body....

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Committee returned to Open Session. Mr. Burns stated that no votes were taken during Executive Session, and he entertained a motion to approve the readySC™ capital project over \$200,000 that was discussed. Mr. Homan motioned and was seconded by Mr. Martin. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

Project Budgets for Ratification: Mr. Burns reviewed the eight readySC™ project budgets for ratification under \$200,000 totaling \$581,753 with a capital investment of \$43,250,000. Mr. Askins commented that it was good to see such a high number of new jobs created by the projects for South Carolina. Mr. Burns entertained a motion to approve

the project budgets. Mr. Martin motioned and was seconded by Mr. Odom. The motion passed unanimously.

E-Zone Retraining Programs for Ratification: Mr. Burns reviewed the three E-Zone retraining programs for approval. Brad Neese gave some further details regarding one of the projects at Central Carolina Technical College. Hearing no questions, Mr. Burns entertained a motion to approve the E-Zone Retraining Programs. Ms. Bright motioned and was seconded by Mr. Homan. It passed unanimously without any discussion.

Approval of Enterprise Campus for Spartanburg Community College (Cherokee County and Downtown Spartanburg): Mr. Burns reviewed the details of the two enterprise campuses at Spartanburg Community College for Cherokee County and for downtown Spartanburg. The Spark Center is located at the Spartanburg Community College Highway 290 Campus has been tremendously successful for Spartanburg economic development as a nurturing area for new companies emerging in the region.

He noted the information that was included in the agenda package regarding expanding the two other locations. Mr. Askins inquired about the function of the enterprise campuses. Dr. Hardee responded that they are a place where a new business/industry can begin and not have to wait an extended amount of time while its permanent facility is being built to begin the business process and start training its workforce. He stated that the Spark Center Campus is a perfect example of a functioning transitional campus which has benefitted many companies in Spartanburg.

Dr. Hardee gave the floor to Dr. Michael Mikota, President, and Michael Forrester, Vice President of Economic Development, both of Spartanburg Community College (SCC). Dr. Mikota stated that the Spark Center has had roughly a \$2.9B impact over the last 13 years and has created over 45,000 jobs. He stated that they have had multiple inquiries regarding the need for services to be provided for the Cherokee and downtown Spartanburg areas. Dr. Mikota provided further details regarding the need for expansion of both campuses. Dr. Hardee stated that the two enterprise campuses were approved last week and Dr. Mikota contacted him to request the item be added to the agenda so that SCC did not have to wait until July for approval. With no further questions or discussion, Mr. Grant entertained a motion to approve the two enterprise campuses. Dr. Woodward moved and was seconded by Mr. Barker. The affirmative motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Askins gave the floor to Mr. Schrum. He reported that the Committee has three informational items to review.

Staff Approvals for April 2021 – May 2021- Mr. Schrum noted the staff approval list included in the agenda package which contained five staff approvals regarding minor budget changes for projects at Orangeburg-Calhoun, Midlands, Northeastern, and York Technical Colleges.

State Board Financial Summary – Month Ending April 30, 2021- Mr. Schrum noted the list that was included in the agenda package and stated that there were no specific items needing attention. There were no questions.

Presidential Search Update for Florence-Darlington and York Technical Colleges- Mr. Schrum reported that Kandy Peacock is currently coordinating two presidential searches, one for Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) and one for York Technical College. He stated that he is participating in the search for FDTC, and the committee has received 117 applications to date. Initial screening meetings will begin June 1st conducted by Dr. Leroy Robinson, FDTC Chairman, Dr. Walt Tobin, President of Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, and Mr. Schrum. Semi-finalist interview dates are June 16th - 18th. They are hopeful to have a new president established by the Fall.

The Association of Community College Trustees is handling the presidential search for York Technical College. The application portal was closed last week; a total of 75 applications were received for consideration. The search committee will determine the semi-finalists no later than the end of May. Semi-finalist interviews are tentatively scheduled for June 9th and 10th with a target date of finalist interviews on June 21st.

Mr. Schrum also shared that Hartsville entertained Governor McMaster and Lieutenant Governor Everette yesterday. They were in town to review current capital projects.

C. Instruction and Student Services Committee – Philip G. Homan, Chair

Mr. Homan reported there were three academic program proposals for consideration by the Committee.

He provided a summary of the program proposals that were included with the agenda materials distributed prior to the meeting. The following academic programs were recommended for State Board approval:

- Horry-Georgetown Technical College – Associate in Applied Science, major in Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Horry-Georgetown Technical College – Associate in Applied Science, major in Surgical Technology
- Midlands Technical College – Associate in Applied Science, major in Welding

Mr. Homan entertained a motion for approval. Mr. Young motioned and was seconded by Mr. Schrum. The affirmative motion passed unanimously to approve the three program proposals.

ADJOURN 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.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Joren Bartlett, Vice President of Governmental Relations

Ms. Bartlett started her report with a review of the Senate Budget. The Technical College System received the following amounts from the Senate Budget:

- \$10M in recurring funds (the largest recurring amount the System has received in any given year)
- \$134.1M in non-recurring funds for maintenance, renovation, and repair (SFC staff said distribution of funds was based on a formula; each college received a base of \$500,000 and the rest was based on enrollment figures from the CHE)
- \$51.1M in Lottery Tuition Assistant Program (LTAP) funds
- \$17M in SCWINS
- \$16M in Workforce Scholarships and Grants
- \$18M in equipment
- \$500,000 for Trident Technical College for diesel maintenance and driver program
- An additional \$10M under the Capital Reserve Fund for maintenance, repair, and renovation
- \$2.5M for readySC™
- 2% base pay increase was given for all state employees and covered health insurance premium increases which included an annual well visit for all employees. There was also a 1% retirement contribution increase. The total budget came out to \$256.1M.

The budget will now go back to the House to be revised and considered as the House 2 version of the budget. The last day of session was this past Thursday; it was the official Sine Die date for the session; however, they did draft a Sine Die Resolution which will give them the ability to come back to finish the budget and any other bills that have conference committees appointed prior to 5 p.m. on May 13th. The House 2 version of the budget gives the House an opportunity to spend the new funds created when the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) revised their estimate.

Ms. Bartlett reported that Ways and Means' Subcommittees have started to meet this week. The Higher Ed Subcommittee is taking place during the current State Board meeting. CHE was asked to

present their budget a second time in order to cover some statewide issues some of the agencies had inquired about.

Next week the Full Ways and Means' Committee will vote on the House 2 version of the budget. During the week of July 8-10, the House will come back into session to adopt the budget which will be sent back to the Senate where they will non-concur with it. During the week of June 14-18th, the Conference Committee will meet and work out any differences between the two groups to be ready on June 21 to vote on the conference report. It will then go to the Governor, and he will have 5 days to veto. On June 29th, the Conference Committee will come into session and sustain or override any of the Governor's vetoes. There were no questions regarding the budget.

Ms. Bartlett gave a summary of the legislation she and Karen Taylor have been following during the session. She reported that there were thirteen bills concerning the SC Technical College System or higher education in general that were ratified or signed by the Governor. Thirteen bills have crossed from one house to the other that they are tracking. There are another 226 bills that she and Ms. Taylor are continuing to track. The bills will all move forward into the next session. Ms. Bartlett reported that it was the end of the first year of a two-year session. She will distribute the House 2 budget update once it is available.

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

Ms. Jaillette reported that the SCATCC's next board meeting is scheduled for June 2nd which will hopefully be the last one to be held virtually. They will approve their budget for the next fiscal year and their new slate of officers. The new slate of officers for and their titles are as follows:

- Chair – David Smalls, Technical College of the Lowcountry
- Vice-Chair – Keyatta Priester, Aiken Technical College
- Secretary – Yvonne Barnes, Trident Technical College
- Treasurer – George Piersol, Piedmont Technical College
- Past-Chair – Helen Roseman-Saunders, Tri-County Technical College

Ms. Jaillette stated that the SCATCC's Executive Committee will participate in the Joint Board Summit that Chairperson Fore mentioned in her earlier report. Additionally, the SCATCC will hold a separate strategic planning session during the event.

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

Dr. Fore reported that the Presidents' Council met on April 8th via Zoom. During the meeting the presidents had a healthy discussion regarding dual enrollment. She stated that some of the universities in SC want to offer more dual enrollment courses to students; however, the technical colleges have been very successful in offering the dual enrollment courses for the last 10-15 years. She shared information

and data regarding dual enrollment concerning Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC). The presidents considered what they need to be doing in order to maintain their good position among all those involved. They discussed what actions they need to take in moving forward. Dr. Patty Lee, President of Williamsburg Technical College, is chairing a subcommittee who reviewed recommendations from other presidents regarding the topic. The consensus the presidents reached was that each needed to nurture their relationships with their superintendents and high schools to continue the dual enrollment terms of each college. Dr. Lee and her committee are currently gathering information from all the colleges regarding their best practices for dual enrollment. The presidents also discussed a statewide marketing initiative regarding dual enrollment but did not decide how best to go about implementing that idea. Dr. Fore reiterated to the Board that the presidents are very proud of the work they do in dual enrollment. She noted that it saves both the parents and students a substantial amount of money.

At the April meeting, the presidents also voted to use priority initiative funds to pay for the Skillsoft Learning Management System Annual Agreement, eTRACK Reporting–Department of Employment and Workforce, and Title IX training for college staff costing approximately \$103,341 which left a remaining balance of \$176,618 in the Priority Initiative Fund Account. Randy Johnson also gave a report regarding the funding the technical college system is receiving through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Each college has received its round of stimulus funds and is reviewing how to use them.

Dr. Fore stated that summer courses have begun at the colleges and shared some data regarding HGTC. She was encouraged that enrollment is up compared to summer last year. She stated that there is a lot of discussion transpiring at the colleges regarding safety protocols surrounding COVID. She provided several examples. She also stated that the colleges are working on their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. Drs. Fore and Hardee will meet on June 3rd to discuss the Joint Board Summit in July. She reviewed details and the tentative agenda regarding the Summit. She thanked the Board for their support of the academic programs at HGTC which they approved earlier in the meeting.

SCTCS 2021-2023 STRATEGIC FOCUS FOR APPROVAL – Tim Hardee, System President

Dr. Hardee directed the Board members to review the Strategic Focus Spreadsheet that was included in the agenda package that he and the vice presidents created. He referred to it as the road map for the technical college system to go by for the next three years which incorporates workforce development as well as partnership development with stakeholders across SC. He stated that he would like to have the State Board's approval and opened the floor for questions. Mr. Yaun commented that he felt they did a great job on the spreadsheet. He inquired whether further details regarding online services the technical college system offers should be mentioned under the accessible portion of the spreadsheet given the information Dr. Fore shared earlier concerning dual enrollment. Dr. Hardee stated that the online delivery method has really become the norm for the colleges, and he does not see the System

going back to the way they used to do business. Dr. Hardee stated that he would discuss the idea with Kelly Steinhilper to try to specifically incorporate the online aspect into the spreadsheet.

There was further discussion regarding the topic. He commented that the colleges are partnering together now more than ever and are becoming more efficient by using the online platforms. Dr. Fore mentioned a few courses that HGTC will soon offer online. Dr. Mikota emphasized that the opportunity for the colleges to collaborate is substantial, but he also noted the importance of in-person classes. With no further questions, Mr. Askins entertained a motion to adopt the SC Technical College System 2021-2023 Strategic Focus Spreadsheet. Mr. Yaun motioned and was seconded by Mr. Homan. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Chairman Askins entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the State Board meeting on March 23, 2021. Mr. Askins stated that under the Adjourn the Committee of the Whole section, the minutes needed to state, “Chairman Askins adjourned the Committee of the Whole and called the State Board to Order.” Mr. Schrum motioned and was seconded by Mr. Martin. The minutes were approved as amended with no further discussion.

MINUTES FOR REVIEW

Chairman Askins stated that minutes from the March 30, 2021 (Special-Called) and April 8, 2021 Presidents’ Council meetings were included with the agenda materials distributed prior to the meeting for review. Mr. Askins noted that Dr. Fore thoroughly covered the meetings during her report. He noted there was an excellent discussion on the issues the colleges are facing regarding dual enrollment.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS-CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Project Budget for State Board Approval
- Project Budgets for State Board Ratification
- Board Ratifications for E-Zone Retraining Program
- Enterprise Campus (Cherokee County) for Spartanburg Community College
- Enterprise Campus (Downtown Spartanburg) for Spartanburg Community College
- Academic Program Proposal, Horry-Georgetown Technical College – Associate in Applied Science, Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Academic Program Proposal, Horry-Georgetown Technical College – Associate in Applied Science, Surgical Technology

- Academic Program Proposal, Midlands Technical College – Associate in Applied Science, Welding
- SC Technical College System 2021-2023 Strategic Focus
- State Board Meeting Minutes, March 23, 2021, as amended

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Hardee, System President

Dr. Hardee directed the Board members to review his report of events that was included in the agenda package.

Joint Board Retreat Reception- Dr. Hardee stated that Dr. Fore mentioned hosting a reception at her home for the Joint Board Retreat the evening of July 26th. He encouraged the Board members to attend.

Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commencement Ceremony- Dr. Hardee stated that had the opportunity to attend HGTC's Commencement Ceremony on May 12th. Governor McMaster served as the commencement speaker. During the event, he awarded the Order of the Palmetto to Dr. Fore. Dr. Hardee commended her on earning the highest citizen award given for service to SC and its citizens.

University of South Carolina Commencement- Dr. Hardee showed his copy of the University of South Carolina's (USC) Commencement program. He noted that fifteen employees from the SC Technical College System completed a certificate of graduate study from the College of Higher Education Leadership awarded to up-and-coming leaders throughout the System. Dr. Sumpter, Mr. Johnson, and Dr. Hardee attended the ceremony for the graduates at Wardlaw last week. Dr. Hardee stated that it is important for the System to continue providing the types of opportunities which invest in advancing its own people.

SC First Steps Partnership- Dr. Hardee announced that he invited Georgia Mjartin, Executive Director of SC First Steps (SCFS), to give a presentation at the Presidents' Council meeting in May. SCFS serves about 30,000 students between 0-5 years old across the state. Dr. Hardee had met several times with Ms. Mjartin prior to her participating in the meeting to discuss forming a partnership between SCFS and the SC Technical College System. He commented that the partnership may seem odd at first but stated that the students being served all have parents who could benefit from gaining skills and training from the technical college system. The two entities would work together with a common goal of benefitting the children as well as the parents.

Partnership With South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce- Dr. Hardee reported that as of yesterday, 82,644 residents of the State are receiving unemployment benefits from the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW). An additional 72,000 residents have applied for benefits, have appealed, or are in the process in some form of filing a claim in SC. Dr. Hardee along with Mr. Neese and Kelly Steinhilper brainstormed with Dan Ellzey, Executive Director of DEW, and his staff to development a way for claimants to continue receiving their unemployment benefits in addition to doing an online job search. DEW will send an email next week to the 150,000 claimants offering them

a chance for “career exploration” among the technical colleges. The System will use \$8M from the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to fund short-term training, up to sixteen weeks, in job fields with shortages e.g., welding, commercial driver’s license (CDL) training, lineman technician, patient care technician, etc. The goal of the partnership is to get people off unemployment and into the workforce. Dr. Hardee opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Odom shared that a friend of his who owns a manufacturing company is having a hard time filing positions due to the inability to hire employees. One of the primary reasons is due to the large amount of benefits those currently unemployed are receiving in SC. Mr. Odom applauded Dr. Hardee in working with DEW on this partnership.

OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Askins stated that the Joint Board Summit will be held on July 26th and 27th at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. Information regarding hotel accommodations and the Summit agenda will be distributed at a later date. He stated that it will be an in-person event, but measures will be taken to ensure virtual connections can still be made for those who wish to participate.

Chairman Askins stated that Mr. Burns has done a great job monitoring the Foundation Account which has continued to grow since Mr. Burns was put in charge of the account. He stated there was no need to have a meeting regarding the Foundation Account.

ADJOURNMENT

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

July 27, 2021

Date Approved by the State Board



Gregory B. Askins, Chairman



Tim Hardee, Executive Director