

**State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education**

**Meeting Minutes**

Board Room

111 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia, SC 29210

10:00 A.M.

January 23, 2024

**PRESENT:**

Roger P. Schrum, Chair  
Gregory B. Askins  
Anthony Garvin Barker  
Ralph A. Odom, Jr.  
Orville S. Smith, III  
Terry Hardesty  
Carolyn Swinton  
Warren Darby, Jr.  
Chris Huffman  
E. Grantland Burns, *via Zoom*

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Hardee, System President  
Warren Ganjehsani, Chief Legal Counsel  
Brad Neese, Vice President of Economic Development  
Kandy Peacock, Vice President for Human Resources  
Rosline Sumpter, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Khushru Tata, Vice President for Information Technology  
Greg Little, Vice President of Strategic Planning and Innovation  
Kelly Steinhilper, Vice President of Communications  
Randall Johnson, Vice President of Finance  
AJ Newton, Vice President of Governmental Relations  
Mary Oakman, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Amanda Richardson, Vice President of Apprenticeship Carolina

**ABSENT:**

Ben Satcher  
Ellen Weaver

**SYSTEM STAFF ABSENT:**

**GUESTS:**

Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director, SC Association of Technical College Commissioners  
Nia Simmons, Transfer and Articulation Manager, SC Commission on Higher Education  
Kristin Brooks, Program Manager, 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 – Roger Schrum, Chair**

Chairman Schrum called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. Mr. Schrum thanked the System Office staff for their hard work in planning and executing a successful retreat. He also recognized Dr.

Rosline Sumpter and her staff for their work with the transfer agreement with Clemson and The University of South Carolina.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORTS:**

#### **A. Economic Development and Training Committee – Grant Burns, Chair**

Project Budgets for State Board Approval: Mr. Burns entertained a motion to enter an Executive Session to discuss readySC™ projects over \$200,000 for approval. Mr. Burns moved, and Mr. Smith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. They entered the Executive Session, and Mr. Brad Neese, Mr. Randy Johnson, and Mr. Warren Ganjehsani were asked to stay for the Executive Session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

*S.C. Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a)(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 reported that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Project Budgets for Ratification- Mr. Burns reviewed the two readySC™ project budgets for ratification under \$200,000. There were no questions.

Mr. Burns entertained a motion to approve the four readySC™ capital projects over \$200,000 discussed during the Executive Session and the two Project Budgets for Ratification. Mr. Hardesty moved, and Mr. Odom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Burns asked Mr. Brad Neese to provide an update to the Board regarding the two training centers for Scout Motors and AESC. Mr. Neese stated that these two training centers will be built, owned, and operated by readySC.

**B. Fiscal, Audit, and Personnel Committee – Garvin Barker, Chair**

Chairman Schrum gave the floor to Mr. Barker.

Annual Tuition and Fee Recommendation for Approval- Pursuant to policy and procedure, 7-2-101 and 7-2-101.1, the State Board annually sets the tuition range for the System for the upcoming academic year. Historically, the Board has considered the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) as a baseline for adjustments to the tuition range. The HEPI is an inflation index designed specifically to track the main cost drivers in higher education. The System's tuition structure is based on a credit hour model, and the Board's adjustment involves establishing both the minimum and maximum tuition per credit hour range. The approved minimum and maximum tuition per credit hour for academic year 2023-2024 is as follows: Minimum per credit hour is \$174.98, and Maximum per credit hour is \$268.74. The HEPI data shows that inflation for colleges and universities was 4.0 percent for fiscal year 2023. Typically, the recommendation would be equivalent to the percentage increases in the minimum and maximum credit hour rates for the academic year 2024-2025. However, our proposal is that the Board forgo rate increases for the upcoming academic year and instead maintain the current tuition range. We are making this recommendation because the maximum per credit hour rate approved by the Board for the academic year 2023-2024 exceeds the tuition rates charged by any technical college by more than 13 percent. Staff recommends Board approval to maintain the tuition range for the Academic Year 2024-2025 at the maximum and minimum rates approved for Academic Year 2023-2024. Mr. Barker moved, and Mr. Odom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Spartanburg Community College Proposed Property Acquisitions for Approval- Spartanburg Community College's Cherokee County Campus, located in Gaffney, SC, within the boundaries of SC Hwy 11 and Peachoid Road, currently consists of five buildings (the Freightliner Service Center, the L Hoke Parris Industry & Business Training Center, the Peeler Academic Building, the Center for Advanced Manufacturing & Industrial Technologies, and the Cherokee Public Schools' Institute of Innovation). The college anticipates rapid expansion in the area and desires to acquire property to provide for future expansion opportunities. Recently, the college has been discussing potential acquisitions adjacent to the campus with various owners. In December 2023, the SCC Commission approved the College to explore the possible acquisition of the properties described below, pending proper approvals by the State.

- **Smith Land Acquisition (1.67 acres and 6,148 square foot building)** - In October 2023, an adjoining property owner approached the college, wanting to sell its Peachoid Road property (former Fatz Café restaurant). The property is just north of Peachoid Road to the south of the campus.

- **Walker Land Acquisition Project (1.69 acres)** – Over the past few years, an adjoining property owner has had several discussions with the college concerning his future desire to sell his vacant land on Peachoid Road. The property is just north of Peachoid Road to the south of the campus.
- **Hamrick's Land Acquisition (20.39 acres)** - In October 2023, Hamrick's, Inc., an adjoining property owner, approached the college wanting to sell its Peachoid Road property (20.39 acres). The property is just north of Peachoid Road on the far west end of the campus.

The college is concerned that if acquired and developed by others, these properties may be unavailable or less affordable in the future. Therefore, the college seeks State Board approval to request Phase I land acquisition authority from the State, which would allow the College to proceed with obtaining an environmental Phase 1 study and an appraisal at a total cost not to exceed \$20,000 per property. In the event the College completes Phase I and decides to move forward with property acquisitions, State Board approval would be sought, and if approved, the properties would be acquired using State appropriated funds received in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for projects located in Cherokee County (Proviso 118.19 - \$20,000,000). Mr. Barker moved to approve Spartanburg Community College to proceed with Phase I of the proposed property acquisitions, subject to other necessary approvals. Mr. Hardesty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

*Spartanburg Community College Capital Project for Approval – Nursing Building Relocation and Expansion* Spartanburg Community College seeks approval to renovate the Evans Building on its Downtown Campus to accommodate the College's expanding nursing program, which is currently located in the Health Sciences Building on the Giles Campus. The college projects significant program growth by spring 2025, but the current classrooms and laboratory space in the Health Sciences Building will not support the increased enrollment. The budget is \$2,503,931 – FY22-23 Proviso 118.19. Mr. Barker moved to approve the project subject to other necessary approvals. Mr. Odom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

*Staff Approvals for November 16, 2023, through January 14, 2024-* Mr. Barker noted that the staff approval list included in the agenda package contained six staff approvals. He stated that Mr. Johnson was available to answer any questions, but there were none.

*State Board Financial Summary through the Month Ending December 31, 2023-* Mr. Barker noted the summary in the agenda package and stated that it reflected activity through December 31, 2023.

## **ADJOURN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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

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

Chairman Schrum called the State Board Meeting to Order.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE- AJ Newton**

Mr. A.J. Newton informed the council that the BEA met in November for their initial 2023-24 Forecast. The BEA is forecasting an additional \$673.1M in recurring funds. This figure accounts for the deductions due to increases in the General Reserve Fund and Incremental Income Tax Rate Reduction. An additional \$896.1M in non-recurring funds and the initial Lottery estimate of \$534.2M. On January 5, 2023, Governor McMaster released his Executive Budget. The Executive Budgets included the following items for the Technical College System:

- \$10,463,525M in Recurring Tuition Mitigation
- \$50 M in Non-Recurring for EV Institutes
- \$10M in Non-Recurring for Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement
- \$95M in lottery funds for SCWINS
- \$51.1M for Lottery Tuition Assistance
- \$30M in Lottery funds for high-demand job skill training equipment
- \$5M in Lottery funds for ReadySC to support training needs for companies
- \$1M in EIA Recurring for the JAG program

### **Other partial allocations to the SC Technical College System**

- \$80M in Lottery for Need-Base Scholarships
- \$10M in Lottery for Nursing Initiative

The first day of the 2024 session was this past Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. The House Ways and Means higher education subcommittee began hearing with Winthrop, SC State, Tuition Grants, and Francis Marion this week. Mr. Newton also noted they are tracking 150 bills, and he will keep the Board updated on any significant movement. Rusty Monhollon, the Executive Director of the SC Commission of Higher Education, announced his retirement effective in March 2024. Oran Smith was appointed to CHE as a Commissioner and was confirmed by the Senate yesterday. Mick Zias' confirmation hearing was carried over.

Mr. Newton provided a list of upcoming meetings and events. January 16- Ways and Means Higher Education Budget Hearing; January 25- BEA Meeting; February 15- Updated BEA Estimate

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

Ms. Jaillette discussed the Day of Learning at the Palmetto Club scheduled for January 31, 2024. She stated she looked forward to seeing all the Board Members planning to attend and extended an invitation to those who still need to register to attend. A new Trustee training session will be that morning, and a Legislative Luncheon is planned for noon. The awards and recognition for years of service will follow, and the Afternoon Session will be the Commissioner's Academy; the Governor will speak to the group

in the second afternoon session, and they will end the date with a panel from Apprenticeship programs from across the system. She asked if anyone had any further questions, and she encouraged them to contact her directly.

### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Chairman Schrum entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the State Board meeting on December 1, 2024. Mr. Odom moved and was seconded by Mr. Hardesty. The minutes were approved.

### **MINUTES FOR REVIEW**

Chairman Schrum stated that minutes from the November 9th, 2024, Presidents' Council meeting were included with the agenda materials distributed before the meeting for review. Mr. Schrum encouraged the Board members to read them.

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

Chairman Schrum entertained a motion for State Board approval of the Committee of the Whole recommendations. Mr. Hardesty moved, and Mr. Barker seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the following recommendations were adopted unanimously without discussion:

- Project Budget for State Board Approval
- Project Budgets for State Board Ratification
- Annual Tuition and Fee Recommendation for Approval
- Spartanburg Community College Proposed Property Acquisitions for Approval
- Spartanburg Community College Capital Project for Approval  
–Nursing Building Relocation and Expansion
- State Board Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2024

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Hardee, Executive Director**

Dr. Hardee started his report by sharing a list of the events and meetings he has attended since the December meeting. Dr. Hardee stated he appreciated Mr. Schrum's recognition of the work of Dr. Sumpter and her staff on the transfer agreement with Clemson and USC. He noted that both institutions hold the Technical College System in high esteem because they recognize they are receiving high-quality students from the system. He stated that this agreement is what he would consider a starting point, and they will continue to work on improving the agreement moving forward. On Thursday, Dr. Hardee and Mr. Brad Neese will be hosting a visit with Lt. Governor Evette in Charleston. They plan to visit Volvo and Redwood Materials. On Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Hardee will attend the Governor's Economic Development Summit.

Dr. Hardee also shared leadership opportunities throughout the system with the board. He reviewed the program he participated in at Midlands Technical College. Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College will also have a meeting in March for their leadership program. Several of the vice-presidents from the System Office will be participating alongside Dr. Hardee. Dr. Hardee noted that retention is a

significant issue, and it benefits the system by identifying potential leaders and training those individuals for leadership positions.

Mr. Schrum thanked the board members who serve on the Technical College System Foundation. He noted that the State Board will meet on March 26th, 2024, at 10 a.m. He also informed the Board that the Foundation would hold its meeting after the March 26th meeting, and the board was invited to attend.

**ADJOURN STATE BOARD**

With no other matters to discuss, Chairman Schrum called for a motion to adjourn the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education meeting. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Hardesty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Date Approved by the State Board

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Roger Schrum, Chairman

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Tim Hardee, Executive Director