

**Council of Technical College Presidents' Meeting Minutes**  
*System Office*  
*Board Room*

11:00 A.M.

November 14, 2024

**PRESENT:**

Hope Rivers, Chair, PTC  
Forest Mahan, ATC  
Kevin Pollock, CCTC  
Willie L. Todd, Jr., DTC, *via Zoom*  
Jermaine Ford, FDTC, *via Zoom*  
Greg Little, MTC  
Kyle Wagner, NETC  
Walt Tobin, OCTC, *via Zoom*  
Michael Mikota, SCC  
Galen DeHay, TCTC, *via Zoom*  
Vicky Wood, TTC  
Patty Lee, WTC  
Stacey Moore, YTC, *via Zoom*

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Hardee, System President  
Kandy Peacock, Vice President of Human Resources  
Warren Ganjehsani, Chief Legal Counsel  
Rosline Sumpter, Vice President of Academics, Student Affairs & Research  
Kelly Steinhilper, Vice President of Communications  
Amanda Richardson, Vice President of Apprenticeship Carolina  
Brad Neese, Vice President of ReadySC  
Khushru Tata, Vice President for Information Technology Services  
AJ Newton, Vice President of Governmental Affairs

**ABSENT:**

Keith Miller, GTC  
Marilyn Fore, HGTC  
Rich Gough, TCL

**ABSENT:**

Randy Johnson, Vice President of Finance

**GUESTS:**

Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director, SC Association for Technical College Commissioners  
Julie Eddy, Chief of Staff, Greenville Technical College, *via Zoom*  
Jennifer Wilbanks, Exec. VP for Academics & Workforce Development, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, *via Zoom*  
Nancy Weber, VP for Administrative Services, Technical College of the Lowcountry  
Anand Gramopadhye, Dean of the College of Engineering, Clemson University  
Rebecca Short, Director of Operations, Clemson University  
David Lee, AVP Marketing and Communications, Clemson University  
Kapil Chalil Madathil, Graduate Program Coordinator, Clemson University

**CALL TO ORDER – PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL** – Hope Rivers, Chair

Chairperson Rivers called the Presidents' Council meeting to order and welcomed guests.

Dr. Gramopadhye, Ms. Rebecca Short, and Mr. Kapil Chalil Madathil presented the SkilRedi™ training curriculum to the Presidents' Council. They provided an overview of the modules' features and the ability to brand the program for each college individually. They also provided information about the tools available to students and instructors. SkilRedi will also be hosting webinars in February and March 2025.

**CONSENT AGENDA** – Hope Rivers, Chairperson

Chairperson Rivers entertained a motion to approve the Presidents' Council meeting minutes from October 17, 2024. Dr. Pollock moved that the minutes be approved. Dr. Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

A. Legislative Committee Report- Galen DeHay, Chair

Dr. DeHay began by thanking the group and acknowledging the Legislative Committee's work on ranking policies. Due to their efforts, they contracted with Brian White to serve as a policy consultant for the President's Council. Brian White, who was present at the meeting, will help facilitate and convene ad hoc committees for the three high-priority policies. The aim is to get these committees started before the holiday break to ensure progress throughout the winter and spring. Dr. DeHay also mentioned ongoing collaboration between the Legislative Committee, Ashley, and the Executive Committee of SCATCC in the search for a lobbyist. Mr. Newton, Mr. White, and the chosen lobbyist will ensure goals, activities, and messaging are aligned. Dr. DeHay emphasized the Committee's hard work and the importance of their contributions.

Dr. DeHay then turned the floor over to Aj Newton for further updates.

Legislative Update: Mr. Newton provided several updates regarding the recent elections, which resulted in the Republicans gaining four seats in the Senate, giving them a supermajority with 34 Republicans and 12 Democrats. Four Democratic incumbents, Senators Fanning, Malloy, Johnson, and Stevens, lost their seats. The total number of new Senators is 13, which may affect Senate Finance Committee assignments. The House Republicans maintained their supermajority with 88 Republicans to 36 Democrats, and there were 19 new House members. Karen is compiling a list of the latest members in the House and Senate, which will be shared with everyone. This will help facilitate outreach to new members, particularly for system-wide advocacy. Mr. Newton also reported that the BEA is meeting next week to give the initial forecast for the fiscal year 2025-2026. The forecast suggests growth, though not as much as last year. Big-ticket items like income tax reductions may take up a substantial portion of non-recurring dollars. Additionally, there may be significant requests from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

Mr. Newton also provided a list of upcoming dates:

- BEA preliminary budget forecast: Next Tuesday at 9 AM
- JBRC and House Organizational Session: December 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Senate Organizational Session: December 4<sup>th</sup>
- First Tech College Lobbyist Liaison meeting: December 10<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom

- First Day of Session: January 14<sup>th</sup>
- Tech System Legislative Day at the State House: February 26<sup>th</sup>

B. Chief Academic Officers- Walt Tobin, Chair

Procedure for Approval – SBTCE 3-1-502.1: Approval for Cancelled Curriculum: Dr. Tobin turned the floor over to Dr. Sumpter. Dr. Sumpter presented the SBTCE 3-1-502.1 procedure for review and approval. Dr. Sumpter stated this review was a part of the three-year policy and procedure review process and reflects minor revisions based on the program evaluation procedure presented at the last Presidents' Council meeting. Dr. Rivers called for a motion to approve the revised curriculum procedure as approved by the committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**SCWINS-**

Dr. Hardee discussed the status of SCWINS funding. At the previous meeting in Florence, the use of SCWINS funds was reviewed. Out of the \$93 million allocated, \$61 million has been spent, accounting for approximately 65% of the total allocation. Allocations across various colleges have been adjusted, with some seeing increases and others experiencing decreases, but the total amount spent remains at \$61 million.

The State Board is responsible for approving the list of eligible programs for SCWINS funding. Dr. Hardee plans to submit a proposal to the State Board next Tuesday, requesting that dual-enrolled students in any program leading to an industry-recognized credential, certificate, diploma, or degree be eligible for SCWINS funds. This would include dual-enrolled students in AA or AS programs. The proposal is intentionally broad to provide each college with flexibility in applying for SCWINS funds to maximize support for dual-enrollment opportunities statewide.

Dr. Hardee also discussed ongoing conversations with the Governor's office in preparation for the upcoming budget presentation. Expanding dual-enrollment opportunities, particularly in rural areas, is a key focus. The technical college system is the primary provider of dual enrollment in these regions, and the State House is encouraging further expansion of dual-enrollment access statewide. While other institutions, such as USC Regional campuses, Francis Marion, and Lander, offer dual-enrollment programs at no cost to students, this challenges technical colleges, making it difficult to compete for dual-enrollment students.

The proposal requests that dual enrollment be added to the list of eligible programs for SCWINS funds. However, if necessary, dual enrollment could be removed from the list in the future if it is deemed unfeasible. Notably, the 17 priority programs will remain at the top of the list and must be prioritized.

Dr. Hardee opened the discussion on the proposal.

Dr. Wagner raised concerns about the potential impact of dual enrollment on school district performance metrics. Dr. Hardee emphasized that the focus should be on what is in the best interest of students. Dr. Rivers added that the issue may stem from workforce credits not being considered "college-ready," unlike general education credits. Dr. Lee highlighted the importance of aligning the K-12 and higher education curricula to ensure that dual-enrollment programs benefit both systems.

Dr. Hardee also mentioned proposed changes to SCWINS that, if approved, would allow funds to be used for dual-enrollment students starting in the spring semester. Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks expressed concern about the 3-year time limit for SCWINS funds, especially for students beginning dual enrollment in 10th or 11th grade. Dr. Hardee clarified that the 3-year clock starts when students begin using the funds, and any changes to this time limit would require legislative action. Dr. Rosline Sumter added that once

students graduate high school, they can access federal and state financial aid, reducing their reliance on SCWINS funds.

There was consensus to present the proposal to the State Board at the November 19, 2024, meeting.

### **SC ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE COMMISSIONERS** –Ashley Jaillette

Ms. Ashley Jaillette thanked everyone for attending the recent meet-and-greet in Seattle. She hopes to secure a larger space for future events to accommodate more attendees and allow for better mingling. She also mentioned that she had sent a survey to all the admins earlier in the week to gather feedback on whether to continue with the same event set up for the fall. She confirmed that the luncheon, which started last year in DC, will again be hosted during the ACCT National Legislative Summit on February 11. The luncheon will also provide an opportunity to meet with the legislative delegation during the February recess, although attendance from legislators remains uncertain until the day of the event. Ashley reminded the group about the Day of Learning on January 29th in Columbia at the Palmetto Club. From 9:00 to 11:30 AM, a new Commissioner Orientation will be held for individuals serving 1 to 5 years in their positions. Following this session, the legislative luncheon will take place. While legislators' attendance is always a mix of certainty and unpredictability, Ashley hopes for a good turnout, especially since the event falls during the legislative session.

Later in the afternoon, there will be sessions for the commissioners. Ashley asked the group to encourage all commissioners to stay until 3:00 PM to show appreciation for the speakers and ensure everyone can return to their regions before dark. She requested that any topic suggestions for the Day of Learning be emailed to her. She also noted that RSVPs for the event will not be requested until after Christmas.

Ashley provided an update on the next meeting of the SCATCC Board, which will be held on December 4th at the System Office. She then updated the group on the lobbyist contract. During a special online meeting, the board approved the contract with Daniel Boan from Cornerstone Group. An offer has been extended to him, and the contract is currently under review. Ashley appreciated the group's patience, emphasizing the importance of doing everything correctly and effectively. She also mentioned that a detailed onboarding plan for Daniel Boan is in development, and several discussions have already taken place with AJ, Dr. DeHay, the SCATCC Board, and the SCATCC Executive Committee. She encouraged anyone with questions to reach out to her for further information.

Ashley concluded by stressing the importance of open communication between commissioners and Presidents, as there have been a few instances of confusion. She then wrapped up her report, inviting any questions.

### **CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT-** Hope Rivers, Chair

Chairperson Rivers thanked Dr. Ford for hosting the last President's Council meeting at his campus in Florence. The meeting was well-received, and the hospitality was appreciated. She also thanked Dr. Hardee for his work in partnering with the South Carolina Hospitals Association to host a panel with hospital CEOs. She noted that while the presidents often interact with hospital CEOs locally, the panel provided valuable connection-building opportunities among various leaders.

Dr. Rivers also mentioned the dinner gathering following the last Council of Presidents meeting in Columbia. About 10 members attended, allowing for informal conversations beyond work topics, including personal stories and experiences. She inquired about the council's interest in continuing these informal gatherings, which would enhance collaboration and camaraderie among Council members. She reminded the group about the informal meetings before the President's Council sessions, encouraging open dialogue on topics that may not typically be addressed in formal meetings. She also informed the Council that the upcoming retreat is scheduled for June 11-13 in Charleston. Members will receive additional information soon, and a venue is being finalized.

Dr. Rivers also thanked Dr. DeHay for his work with the legislative committee, emphasizing the committee's proactive approach. The goal is to ensure that the committee takes the lead in legislative matters. She concluded by inviting any questions from the group. With no further questions, she passed the meeting on to Dr. Hardee.

**SYSTEM PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Dr. Tim Hardee, System President

Dr. Hardee provided a brief report to the council.

*Farm Bill & Training Grant*- He turned the floor over to Dr. Wagner to present an update on the SC farm worker training program. The grant, originally managed by a company for 25 years, has now been reassigned to a partnership involving Williamsburg, Northeastern Tech College, and Denmark Tech College. Previously, the grant provided minimal training, with estimates around \$50,000 annually. However, the new grant has secured \$250,000 in scholarships and the possibility of leveraging additional funds through SC Works. The program targets farm workers, including seasonal and migrant workers aged 18 and older, and their dependents. Agriculture has a significant economic impact on SC, with 259,000 jobs and a \$12.3 billion labor income in the state.

The grant is divided into Northern, Central, and Southern regions. Each region will have a representative to assist with job fairs, training, and career services. Funds will also be available for specialized training (e.g., forklift certification) and workforce education.

Dr. Wagner emphasized the importance of supporting these workers, especially given the rural economic context, and requested colleges to consider offering office space for regional representatives.

Dr. Hardee announced Dr. Little's inauguration event next Tuesday, which Dr. Hudgens, a former Midlands President, will attend along with other dignitaries from the State and Local levels. Dr. Hardee congratulated Dr. Rivers, who was selected as one of 25 community college presidents to serve as an Aspen President's Fellow for 2024-25.

South Carolina ranked 5th nationally for NCLEX passage rates at 95% and 8th for LPN programs at 97%.

Recently, Dr. Hardee attended a panel discussion of energy challenges in SC and informed the group of a few interesting facts. One megawatt of power can power up to 628 homes. Data centers, requiring 150-200 megawatts each, significantly strain the state's energy grid. The need for a mix of energy solutions (solar, methane, etc.) was emphasized, as no single solution can address the growing energy demand. The methane gas from the Spartanburg County landfill is used to generate electricity for BMW, supplying 63% of their energy needs. Dr. Hardee also highlighted insufficient energy capacity in SC to meet current and future demands, which will affect both residential and business growth.

**OTHER BUSINESS-**

No other matters were discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT** –

There being no other matters for consideration or discussion, Chairperson Rivers called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Mikota moved, and Dr. Lee seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.



Presidents' Council Meeting  
January 23, 2024

Minutes for Review  
Presidents' Council  
November 14, 2024

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Hope Rivers, Chair

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Date Approved by Presidents' Council

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Date Reviewed by State Board