



The Spartanburg County Commission for Technical and Community Education Minutes

Date: Monday, May 19, 2025, 4:32 PM

Location: Dr. Benjamin Snoddy Boardroom

Attendees:

Chairman Keller, Vice Chairman Bell, Commissioner Fowler, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner O'Neill, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Hamrick, Dr. Mikota, Mr. Burroughs, Dr. Obi, Ms. Hughes, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Painter, Mr. Aughinbaugh, Mrs. Harris, Ms. James; Commissioner Sarratt, Commissioner Powell-Baker, Dr. Williams

Guest:

Dr. Alan Duesterhaus, Mrs. Christie Brown, Mrs. Ann Jones, Ms. Bryana Atkinson, Mr. Ken Gardner

Absent:

Secretary Hill, Commissioner King, Commissioner Radford

Call to Order

Chairman Keller called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Chairman Keller presented the April 21, 2025, meeting minutes, which previously had been shared with the Members and asked if any Member had edits or questions. Hearing no amendments or objections, Chairman Keller asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the April 21, 2025, meeting minutes, Commissioner Bell seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

Consent Agenda Items

Chairman Keller presented the Consent Agenda Items, which previously had been shared with the Members and asked if any Member had edits or questions. Hearing no amendments or objections, Chairman Keller asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Commissioner Fowler motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items, Commissioner Bell seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

Strategic Plan Update

Presentation by Dr. Stacey Obi, VP, Student & Community Advancement

Dr. Obi introduced and gave the floor to Mr. Dan Silverburg from Campus Works. Dan is the consultant working on the college's next strategic plan. Mr. Silverburg introduced himself and spoke of his 35 years of experience in higher education, particularly in South Carolina. Mr. Silverburg introduced Javon Brame, Senior Director for Client Success at Campus Works, who expressed honor and privilege in partnering with the college.

Mr. Silverburg provided an overview of the strategic planning process:

Data collection has resulted in understanding the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats at the institution.

Input from faculty, staff, students, and community stakeholders has been gathered to define the ideal student experience.

The strategic priorities have been uncovered, and group work is being done to translate these themes into impact on SCC.

Discussion on Mission and Vision Statements:

Mr. Silverberg discussed the current mission statement, emphasizing its recent development and strong nature.

Commissioner Bell suggested that the mission statement should explicitly mention students, as the current version seems to talk around the commitment to students.

Commissioner Powell-Baker asks for clarification on the term "holistic experiences," and Dr. Mikota explained it as a comprehensive, embedded experience for students.

Commissioner Hamrick brought up the discussion of the importance of financial prosperity and quality of life, with suggestions to include these in the mission statement.

Mr. Silverburg mentioned the development of a student experience statement as part of the strategic plan.

Dr. Mikota emphasized the importance of the vision being both aspirational and achievable, tied back to the institution's purpose.

Commissioner Sarratt asked in comparison to other higher education institutes in this area how did Campus Works feel that SCC was doing as the Commission Sarratt feels that SCC is doing really well. Mr. Silverburg admitted to being highly impressed by a couple of components around SCC. Mr. Silverburg spoke to one area, being the maturity with how SCC has integrated and driven economic development in this region. Another area is that SCC has a very mature data infrastructure.

Efforts on the strategic plan have not been around how to make SCC a well-run institution, efforts so far have been about how to take SCC to the next level.

The group discussed the college's current position and aspirations, with feedback on the vision statement's clarity and alignment with the institution's goals.

Commissioner Hamrick spoke to the future aspirations of the College should be to maintain the position of recognized, respected and innovative which is where the College is currently.

Dr. Mikota and Mr. Silverburg expressed confidence in the vision statement's strength and alignment with the college's strategic priorities.

At this time the floor was opened for further questions/discussions, none were put forth. Commissioner Keller thanked Mr. Silverburg and Mr. Brame for the presentation, information and time.

Commission Self-Evaluation

Presentation by Dr. Jenny Williams, Chief Accreditation Officer

Dr. Williams reminded the Commission that this is a yearly self-evaluation, and that Mrs. Walker would be emailing them the link after the meeting. The survey will be open from May 19th until end of the day on June 2nd. Responses will be compiled and shared with the Commission during the June meeting.

Chairman Keller thanked Dr. Williams for the information and opened the floor to questions. None were put forth.

Business Administration AAS

Presentation by Dr. Jenny Williams, Chief Accreditation Officer and Dr. Alan Duesterhaus, Dean, School of Business

Dr. Williams and Mr. Duesterhaus requested the Commission approve the Business Administration AAS. This change does not need SACSCOC approval as there is not enough new content. This is a repackaging of business courses SCC already offers under a more recognized degree title, Business Administration. Once the Commission has approved, the change will be sent to the State for approval.

Dr. Williams gave the floor to Mr. Duesterhaus to discuss the concentrations of the Business Administration AAS program.

Mr. Duesterhaus explained that SCC wants to allow students to stack certificates into the Business Administration AAS program from different concentrations.

The floor was opened for questions; none were put forth. Commissioner Keller asked for a motion to approve the Business Administration AAS program. Commissioner Sarratt motioned to approve the Business Administration AAS program as presented. Commissioner O'Neill seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Financial Report

Presentation by Ms. Melissa Hughes, Director, Finance

Revenues:

Curriculum = \$ 32,776,705 which reflects 97% of the budgeted amount

Continuing Education = \$1,638,461 which reflects 91% of the budgeted amount

Auxiliary = \$ 1,846,632 which reflects 129% of the budgeted amount

State = \$15,639,129 which reflects 113% of the budgeted amount

State = Cherokee Allocation = \$1,307,816 which reflects 100% of the budgeted amount

County = \$ 13,406,049 which reflects 98% of the budgeted amount

Other = \$ 1,479,799 which reflects 114% of the budgeted amount

Total Revenue = \$ 68,424,951 which reflects 102% of the budgeted amount

Expenses:

Full-time Salaries = \$ 20,901,620, which reflects 78% spent of the budgeted amount

Full-time Fringe = \$ 9,966,987 which reflects 82% spent of the budgeted amount

Part-time Salaries = \$ 4,265,972 which reflects 62% spent of the budgeted amount

Part-time Fringe = \$ 1,066,493 which reflects 62% spent of the budgeted amount

O&M Expenses = \$ 13,747,746 which reflects 70% spent of the budgeted amount

Encumbrances = \$ 2,496,512 which reflects 0% spent of the budgeted amount

Total Expenses = \$ 52,445,330 which reflects 78% spent of the budgeted amount

As of April 30, 2025, SCC received 102% of our budgeted revenues, which is a revenue increase of \$7,773,439 in comparison to April 30, 2024. There are no major issues regarding the budget. Expenditure as a percentage of the budget was 78%, which is 4% less than the previous year.

Recommendation: The Commission accepts this as information.

The floor was opened for questions, none were put forth. Chairman Keller asked for a motion to approve the Financial Report. Commissioner Kennedy motioned to approve the Financial Report, Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

President's Report

Presentation by Dr. Michael Mikota, President

Dr. Mikota started his remarks by thanking everyone who participated in the graduation ceremony that was held on May 15th at the Spartanburgers Stadium and how this was a showcase of the pride and passion that SCC works towards for students.

Dr. Mikota highlighted how exciting and busy this time of year is showcasing the recent events he has participated in including a nursing pinning ceremony, awards night, and senior sendoff. All been held to celebrate the students achievements.

Other topics of discussion were:

An overview of the college's strategic initiatives, including the reaffirmation of accreditation, facilities master plan, and economic development efforts.

The expansion plan for Union County and the positive response received from Union County Council. Dr. Mikota thanked Commissioner Powell-Baker and Vice-President Painter for attending the meeting and showing support. Commissioner Powell-Baker commented that Dr. Mikota did a fantastic job of positioning the expansion opportunity in Union. Commissioner Powell-Baker feels the information was well received and feels certain that the Union County Council will move in a positive direction to convey that property to the College.

Highlighted the importance of prioritizing financial and human resources compliance, institutional division-level key performance indicators, and the development of an Academic Master Plan.

The need for a comprehensive review of the college's curriculum and advanced formulation of an Academic Master Plan.

Dr. Mikota announced the departure of Dr. Lisa Satterfield, VP Academic Affairs. Dr. Mikota thanked Dr. Satterfield for her contributions and wished her well in her future endeavors.

Commissioner Radford will be rotating off the Commission in June due to retirement. Dr. Julie Fowler, Superintendent of District 3, was nominated by the Superintendent's to join the Commission in August as the Ex-Officio member.

Dr. Mikota thanked VP, Phaedra Harris for her leadership in launching the first President's Leadership Institute.

The floor was opened for questions. Commissioner Sarratt asked about the timeline to break ground for the new Spark Center at the Cherokee County Campus. Dr. Mikota and Mr. Burroughs both agreed that the building process will take approximately two years to fully complete. Commissioner Saratt than asked the progress and plans for the daycare proposal that had been presented to the Commission a while back. Dr. Mikota stated that to move forward SCC would have to have a financial partner and to date no partner has been found.

Chairman Keller asked for a motion to approve the President's Report. Commissioner Sarratt motioned to approve President's Report, Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

Live to Chase Proposal

Presentation by Dr. Michael Mikota, President

The Live to Chase proposal has given the College extraordinary growth. 38% of SCC students are PELL eligible, there has been more funding from the lottery, SCWins and other resources and scholarships to support students. Over the last couple of years there has been an allocation of Board Designated Funds for this proposal, the total amounts allocated have not been spent. FY25 the Board allocated \$1.9M and the projected amount FY26 is \$1.4M. From those Board Designated Funds there is \$500,000 remaining. There is a projected budget net overage of \$4,000,000. The proposal is to continue Live to Chase for the '25-'26 year but putting \$1.5M instead of \$1.9M to move the proposal forward. Transfer \$1M out of the \$4M to the Board Designated Fund, take the \$500,000 from the remaining funds and have the \$1.5M to draw down on for the Live to Chase proposal.

Dr. Mikota requested that the board vote to approve so that the advertising of Live to Chase could be started the next day.

At this time the floor was opened for questions.

Commissioner Kennedy requested that a caveat be added that the remaining funds will be transferred to the Plant Fund up to \$2.5M as long as the transfer does not leave a budget deficit at the end of the year.

Commissioner Keller asked for confirmation about the vote. Dr. Mikota confirmed that the vote would be to approve setting the target for Live to Chase at \$1.5M.

Commissioner Kennedy made the motion to move the \$1M to the Board Designated Fund for Live to Chase. Commissioner O'Neill seconded the motion and all voted aye.

President's Leadership Institute

Presentation by Mrs. Phaedra Harris, VP, HR

Mrs. Harris introduced Mrs. Christi Brown, from Authentic Leadership Coaching, who executed the President's Leadership Institute at SCC. This program was designed to provide participants with a better understanding of the college, enhance their leadership skills, and provide opportunities for collaborations across all campuses.

The program consisted of many training sessions including topics on adaptive leadership, appreciative leadership, atomic habits, courageous conversations, and effective feedback.

Three participants from this year's Institute, Mrs. Ann Jones, Ms. Bryana Atkinson and Mr. Ken Gardner, attended the meeting and shared their experiences and the impact of the program on their professional development and connections within the college.

The group discussed the importance of ongoing development and enhanced employee potential through the program.

Mrs. Harris discussed the plan to start the next cohort in the same time frame as the current one, extending through the next academic year. Mrs. Harris also discussed ways to enhance the program's impact through peer mentoring and group projects.

The role of peer mentors in the next cohort will be emphasized, highlighting their importance in revisiting topics and making connections with peers. The program will continue to look for ways to enhance the professional and leadership skills of participants.

Adjournment

Chairman Keller asked for a motion to Adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fowler motioned to Adjourn. Commissioner Sarratt seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the meeting Adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracey Hill". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Mrs. Tracey Hill, Secretary