



The Spartanburg County Commission for Technical and Community Education Minutes

Date: Monday, April 20, 2026, 4:30 pm

Location: Dr. Benjamin Snoddy Boardroom

Attendees:

Chairman Keller, Vice Chairman Bell, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Hill, Commissioner King, Commissioner K. Fowler, Commissioner J. Fowler, Commissioner Hamrick, Commissioner Kennedy, Dr. Mikota, Mr. Burroughs, Dr. Williams, Mrs. Painter, Mrs. Harris, Ms. Hughes, Dr. Brothers, Ms. Whittenburg, Ms. Roberson, Mr. Lawter

Absent:

Commissioner Sarratt, Commissioner O'Neill, Commissioner Powell-Baker, Dr. Obi

Call to Order

Chairman Keller called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Chairman Keller presented the minutes from the March 16, 2026, meeting, which had been previously shared with the Members. Hearing no amendments or objections, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Motion: Commissioner Anderson

Second: Commissioner K. Fowler

Vote: All in favor

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.

Motion: Commissioner K. Fowler

Second: Commissioner Hill

Vote: All in favor

Financial Report

Presented by Ms. Melissa Hughes, Director, Finance

Revenues:

Total revenue collected through the end of March: \$64.9 million
Year-over-year increase: \$6.5 million

Curriculum Revenue:

Largest source of revenue
Collected approximately \$2.4 million
Represents about 88% of prior year performance

Workforce Development & Continuing Education

Revenues exceeded budget expectations- 128% received
Strong performance driven by increased enrollment in occupational health courses and the introduction of the heavy equipment program

Auxiliary Services

Revenues have surpassed budget projections
Higher-than-expected revenue due to this being the first full year of outsourced textbook sales

State & System Funding

Received full allocation from system office, exceeding expectations
Received state funding to support employee salary increases

County Funding Updates

Spartanburg County: ~\$7.5 million (first allocation received, request made for second allocation)
Union County: First three quarter payment received ~\$200,000
Cherokee County: ~\$656,000 received

Other Revenues

Interest earnings from Local Government Investment Pool: ~\$1.3 million

The floor was opened for questions. None were put forth.

Expenses

Total expenditure through the end of March equals \$49.5 million with overall spending reflecting approximately 68% of the budget.

Salaries & Benefits

Full-Time Salaries are the largest expense category with \$20.6 million spent, which is approximately 71% of the budget. This includes breakout of employee bonuses issued to eligible employees in the prior calendar year.

Full-Time Fringe Benefits equals \$10 million spent, which is approximately 74% of the budget. Part-Time Salaries & Fringe equals 49% and 47% of the budget respectively.

Operating Expenses

Operations & Maintenance (O&M) equal approximately 54% of the budget utilized.

Encumbrances & Allocations

Total encumbrances are approximately \$3 million. Travel allocation continues to be tracked separately for visibility and transparency.

Financial Position Summary

As of March 31, 2026, SCC received 89% of budgeted revenues, which is a revenue increase of \$6,503,052 in comparison to March 31, 2025. There are no major issues regarding the budget. Expenditure as a percentage of the budget was 68%, which is the same as 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 financials.

Motion: Commissioner K. Fowler

Second: Commissioner Anderson

Vote: All in favor

Bad Debt Write-Off Analysis

Ms. Hughes presented the spring bad debt write-off analysis, recommending approval of \$738,611 in write-offs. Most of the amount relates to curriculum tuition, \$560,869, followed by Financial Aid/R2T4, \$170,808. The balances originated from Fall 2024 and a portion of Summer 2024 and predate the implementation of the Student Financial Responsibility Agreement.

The write-off request of \$524,156 made in October and current request of \$738,611 total ~\$1.3 million.

The Commission has granted authority to the Administration to write off up to 1% of tuition and fees annually. This year, 1% of budgeted tuition and fees equals \$360,738. A recommendation was made that the Commission approves writing off \$738,611, which is 2.05% of the College's budgeted tuition and fees for the 2025-2026 financial year.

At this time, the floor was opened for questions or comments. Dr. Mikota commented that there are current financial and academic restrictions that prevent students from reapplying for tuition funds. Commissioner King asked about percentage increases across semesters. Mr. Burroughs clarified that the reported 3-3.5% reflects combined fall and spring data, while individual terms were lower. He noted that the current spring percentage is slightly lower than last year, though the dollar amount is higher due to overall growth. An outlier of 2.74% was identified and attributed to COVID-era anomalies and lag, which temporarily affected the data. Overall, trends were described as steady over the past few years, generally around 3%.

Chairman Keller asked for a Motion to approve the write-off.

Motion: Commissioner Anderson

Second: Commissioner Bell

Vote: All in favor

President's Report

Presented by Dr. Mikota

Dr. Mikota opened his remarks with reflections on the new growth, life, hope, and opportunities that springtime brings. He shared his condolences with Dr. William Bothers and his family after a tragic loss. Dr. Mikota then introduced the new Administrative Specialist in the President's Office, Ansley Roberson, who will be reporting to Executive Operations Director, Tameka Whittenburg.

Dr. Mikota shared that he anticipates change in the College's revenue sources in the upcoming year. He expressed pride in recent growth and emphasized the need to plan proactively for future adjustments.

The President reported meetings with Foundation leadership, including Chairman Keller and Chairman Rodrigues, stressing that long-term institutional growth will require stronger public-private partnerships.

The President's Council approved a 3.6% tuition cap aligned with the Higher Education Price Index. While no immediate action is required, Dr. Mikota advised that the College may need to consider moving toward the maximum allowed rate during the upcoming budget process.

In the House and Senate, 16 colleges have requested \$38 million, though significant increases are not expected. The state funding formula is influenced by enrollment, retention, and student outcomes. The College has maintained steady enrollment without decline, reaching approximately 7,000 students in Fall 2025 with 5.2% growth, and 5.1% and 1.7% growth in 2024 and 2023 respectively. Potential revenue growth opportunities were identified through county funding and curriculum adjustments if state funding remains limited.

A legislative budget update was provided, noting strong progress on the Senate side, where \$7 million for maintenance, repair, and replacement was included in the Senate Finance budget. On the House side, advocacy efforts resulted in \$2 million being included for the Giles campus expansion. Efforts will continue to secure House support so that both items advance to conference committee. Overall, positioning going into conference committee is favorable, and the outlook remains strong as the process moves forward.

Dr. Mikota shared his assessment of the College's strengths and weaknesses. He identified key strengths as demonstrated enrollment, resilience, and growth; a nationally recognized access and affordability model; strong brand momentum and institutional identity; and effective integration of workforce and economic development efforts. He also noted challenges facing the College, including increased operational complexity, sensitivity to public funding, and ongoing pressures related to facilities and infrastructure.

Dr. Mikota highlighted several recent outreach and engagement activities, including his attendance at the Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony which recognized 55 inductees. Tim Arnold, SCC music instructor, was recognized at the event for leading the Phi Theta Kappa program for five years.

SCC hosted an HVAC articulation signing event with Cherokee County School District's superintendent, Dr. Fitzpatrick. This agreement prevents duplicated efforts to save students time and money throughout their HVAC education.

Dr. Mikota participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the cosmetology program at the Tyger River Campus. On the Giles campus, Dr. Mikota attended the life skills event where he demonstrated how to tie a tie and was a guest lecturer for Dr. Jessica Villa Cevallos' interpersonal communication course.

SCC also hosted the Upstate Alliance quarterly meeting where Dr. Mikota spoke on the future of higher education and the connection to economic growth.

Dr. Mikota recognized Executive Director of Workforce Development, Nikki Burgess, and her involvement with Chasers Track Workability Summit, where 70 students from local school districts were introduced to SCC workforce programs.

Closing Remarks

The President emphasized the importance of engagement, attitude, and execution in achieving institutional success. The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the college's mission and commitment to community impact.

At this time the floor was opened for questions; none were put forth.

Chairman Keller asked for a Motion to approve the President's Report.

Motion: Commissioner Bell

Second: Commissioner K. Fowler

Vote: All in favor

Announcements

Presented by Chairman Keller

Adjourn

Chairman Keller asked for a motion to Adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Anderson

Second: Commissioner K. Fowler

Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Hill".

Mrs. Tracey Hill, Secretary