



## **The Spartanburg County Commission for Technical and Community Education Minutes**

**Date: Monday, May 18, 2026, 4:30 pm**

**Location: Dr. Benjamin Snoddy Boardroom**

### ***Attendees:***

Chairman Keller, Vice Chairman Bell, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Hill, Commissioner King, Commissioner K. Fowler, Commissioner Hamrick, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Sarratt, Commissioner O'Neill, Commissioner Powell-Baker, Dr. Mikota, Dr. Williams, Mrs. Painter, Mrs. Harris, Ms. Hughes, Dr. Brothers, Ms. Whittenburg, Ms. Roberson, Mr. Lawter

### ***Absent:***

Commissioner Smith, Commissioner J. Fowler, Dr. Obi, Mr. Burroughs

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Chairman Keller presented the minutes from the April 20, 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 Hamrick

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 April: \$76.4 million

Year-over-year increase: \$6.7 million

### Curriculum Revenue

Largest source of revenue

Revenues exceeded budget expectations

Will defer portion of summer tuition revenues to next fiscal year

### Workforce Development & Continuing Education

Revenues exceeded budget expectations

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: ~\$13.7 million (second allocation received)

Union County: ~\$167,000 received

Cherokee County: ~\$705,000 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 April equals \$56.9 million with overall spending reflecting approximately 78% of the budget.

### Salaries & Benefits

Full-Time Salaries are the largest expense category with ~\$23 million spent, which is approximately 79% of the budget. This includes breakout of employee bonuses issued to eligible employees in the prior calendar year.

Full-Time Fringe Benefits equals ~\$11.2 million spent, which is approximately 82% of the budget. Part-Time Salaries & Fringe equals 56% and 54% of the budget respectively.

**Operating Expenses**

Operations & Maintenance (O&M) equal approximately 71% of the budget utilized.

**Encumbrances & Allocations**

Total encumbrances are approximately ~\$2.3 million. Travel allocation continues to be tracked separately for visibility and transparency.

**Financial Position Summary**

As of April 30, 2026, SCC received 105% of budgeted revenues, which is a revenue increase of \$6.7 million in comparison to April 30, 2025. There are no major issues regarding the budget. Expenditure as a percentage of the budget was 78%.

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 Kennedy

Vote: All in favor

**Tuition Increase**

It was recommended that tuition be increased by 3.6% in alignment with the Higher Education Price Index, along with an increase in the student support fee from \$75 to \$100. The floor was opened for questions. Commissioner O’Neill inquired about the history of tuition increases over the past 10 years, and Ms. Hughes reported that last year’s increase was the first since COVID. Commissioner Powell-Baker asked about the cadence for future tuition increases, to which Dr. Mikota responded that there is no set expectation for next year, as it will depend on the Higher Education Price Index.

Chairman Keller asked for a Motion to approve the tuition and student support fee increase.

Motion: Commissioner King

Second: Commissioner Anderson

Vote: All in favor

**Differential Tuition Increase**

It was also recommended that the differential tuition rate of \$103 be added to the regular tuition rate for high demand and higher cost health science programs including Surgical Technology, Respiratory Care, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Radiologic Technology, Medical Lab Technology, and Nursing (previously \$100). The floor was opened for questions. Commissioner K. Fowler asked whether lab fees were included in this cost. Ms.

Hughes explained that lab fees are separate and typically range from \$50 to \$100 depending on the course.

Chairman Keller asked for a Motion to approve the differential tuition increase.

Motion: Commissioner King

Second: Commissioner Anderson

Vote: All in favor

## **President's Report**

### **Presented by Dr. Mikota**

Dr. Mikota opened his report by highlighting the recent issue of *Ascend*, a student-led art and literature magazine established in 2018. He emphasized the publication as a strong example of experiential learning, noting its role in fostering students' creativity, communication skills, and engagement within the SCC community.

The President stressed the importance of efficiently using resources in an increasingly competitive budget environment and understanding the marketplace to establish goals that support SCC's economy, student persistence, and overall outcomes. He noted that enrollment has grown by 70%, operating budgets have increased from \$38 million to \$78 million, and per-student instructional costs have been reduced by more than \$3,000 over the past five years. He also shared fall 2026 enrollment goals of 8.5% growth, targeting 7,600 students, with a stretch goal of 8,000 students.

Dr. Mikota provided a brief facilities update, noting that construction on two sites at the Cherokee Campus is expected to begin this fall and that the Union property transfer is anticipated by the end of June. He also shared that meetings have been held to secure an architectural firm for a new administrative building to replace the Ledbetter Building on the Giles Campus. Additionally, the College is currently under contract and expects to close on a 170,000 square foot facility at the Tyger River Campus.

Dr. Mikota highlighted his attendance at the School of Nursing, School of Health Science, and School of Public Health Pinning Ceremonies, recognizing these as significant milestones for students. He emphasized that healthcare will continue to be a key area of growth for both the College and the community.

SCC was recognized by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security as a Center for Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity, with Dr. Mikota and Dr. Ken Gardner accepting the award at a conference in Pittsburgh. The Graduation Gala was held on April 23, where graduates were showcased and celebrated alongside their families. Additionally, the Spring Fling event was hosted at the Cherokee Campus in partnership with Cherokee County School District and the Institute of Innovation.

The Magnolia Society International annual meeting was hosted at the Giles Campus to celebrate SCC's efforts in the field of horticulture. The event showcased the College's

programs and initiatives under the leadership of Dr. Kevin Paris, Horticulture Instructor and Arboretum Director, and Jay Moore, Department Chair, School of Horticulture.

The 2026 Commencement ceremony was held on May 13, with 569 graduates participating. Student speakers Roxania Arias and Robyn Williams shared personal stories of perseverance and determination during their address. Dr. Mikota recognized Tameka Whittenburg, Executive Operations Director, and Amanda Painter, VP, Community Impact, for their planning and execution of the event. Commissioners Powell-Baker and K. Fowler commended the organization of the ceremony, the student speakers, and the fireworks display that concluded the evening.

Dr. Mikota also recognized Commissioner Lyman Hamrick at his final meeting with the Commission, acknowledging his contributions to SCC. Commissioner Hamrick expressed pride in the College's accomplishments and affirmed his continued support for future initiatives.

#### 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 Anderson

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 Hamrick

Second: Commissioner Anderson

Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

*Tracey Hill*

Mrs. Tracey Hill, Secretary