



Date: Monday, March 17, 2025, 4:45 pm
Spartanburg Community College, Dr. Benjamin Snoddy Boardroom

Subject: Minutes from The Spartanburg County Commission for Technical and Community Education Meeting

Attendees: Chairman Keller, Vice Chairman Bell, Secretary Hill, Commissioner Fowler, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner O'Neill, Commissioner Sarratt, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner King, Commissioner Radford, Commissioner Hamrick, Commissioner Powell-Baker, Dr. Mikota, Mr. Burroughs, Dr. Obi, Dr. Satterfield, Ms. Hughes, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Painter, Mr. Aughinbaugh, Mrs. Harris, Ms. Williams

Guests: Ms. Nikoya Shaw, Mr. Derek Horne, Ms. Nikki Burgess, Ms. Holly Nix

Absent: Commissioner Anderson, Ms. James

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Keller called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm.

I. COMMISSION MINUTES

Chairman Keller presented the February 17, 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 Bell motioned to approve the February 17, 2025 meeting minutes, Commissioner Hamrick seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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 Hill seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT presented by Dr. Michael Mikota, President

Growth - K12 Educational Partners and Workforce.

- Next week Spartanburg Community College (SCC) will be signing an agreement on a new pilot project to grow teachers and educators in this region.
- This pilot program will be a dual enrollment program. Students will take dual enrollment at SCC, plus an additional year at SCC's School of Education, then the student will attend an additional year at USC Upstate.
- The first cohort will be a small group from District 3 with plans to expand to all the local school districts.

The demographics of SCC's service areas are changing and growing.

- SCC must adapt to meet the needs of the workforce.
- The most important commodity is people.
- People will be the differentiating factor with the projected growth in this area.
- Spartanburg Community College must prepare to meet the challenge of being a supplier to the workforce.
- The 3 C's of supply are cost, consistency and capacity.
 - Manage cost,
 - Build out consistency,
 - Raise capacity.
- SCC will need to grow program capacity.

Strategic Plan

- Meetings are being held continuously across all campuses.
- The Commission will be incorporated for feedback on the mission and vision.
- The new plan will launch in approximately the next 6 months and will cover the next 5 years.

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Board Meeting

- Dr. Mikota shared slides from the last Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Board Meeting.
- Dr. Mikota is an active board member.
- These slides highlighted the growth trends at the state, regional, and local level.

This concluded Dr. Mikota's report. The floor was then opened to questions, none were put forth.

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

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT presented by Ms. Melissa Hughes, Director, Finance

Revenues:

Curriculum = \$ 28,620,396 which reflects 84% of the budgeted amount

Continuing Education = \$1,342,370 which reflects 75% of the budgeted amount

Auxiliary = \$ 1,735,808 which reflects 122% of the budgeted amount

State = \$15,894,213 which reflects 115% of the budgeted amount
State = Cherokee Allocation = \$1,307,816 which reflects 100% of the budgeted amount
County = \$ 6,953,462 which reflects 51% of the budgeted amount
Other = \$ 1,151,940 which reflects 89% of the budgeted amount
Total Revenue = \$ 57,006,006 which reflects 85% of the budgeted amount

Expenses:

Full-time Salaries = \$ 16,501,115, which reflects 62% spent of the budgeted amount
Full-time Fringe = \$ 7,822,568 which reflects 64% spent of the budgeted amount
Part-time Salaries = \$ 3,261,385 which reflects 47% spent of the budgeted amount
Part-time Fringe = \$ 815,346 which reflects 47% spent of the budgeted amount
O&M Expenses = \$ 10,218,763 which reflects 52% spent of the budgeted amount
Encumbrances = \$ 2,744,620 which reflects 0% spent of the budgeted amount
Total Expenses = \$ 41,363,797 which reflects 61% spent of the budgeted amount

As of February 28, 2025, SCC received 85% of budgeted revenues, which is a revenue increase of \$4,782,124 in comparison to February 28, 2024. There are no major issues regarding the budget. Expenditure as a percentage of the budget was 61%, which is 2% less than the previous year.

Recommendation: The Commission accepts this as information.

At the conclusion of Ms. Hughes' presentation, the floor was then opened for questions, none were put forth. Chairman Keller asked for a motion to approve the Financial Report. Commissioner Fowler motioned to approve the Financial Report, Commissioner O'Neill seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

- V. PROPERTY PURCHASES presented by Mr. Ethan Burroughs, VP, Finance
Spartanburg Community College (SCC) has completed due diligence on three parcels of land in Cherokee County that adjoin its Cherokee County Campus, including two properties on Whelchel Road and one near the former Fatz Restaurant, which SCC recently purchased. SCC has entered contracts for these parcels and is now seeking approval from the Commission to proceed with closing, pending approvals from the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) and the State Property Agency (SPA), expected in the coming weeks.

At the conclusion of Mr. Burroughs presentation, the floor was opened for questions. Chairman Keller clarified that there were 3 parcels of land which Mr. Burroughs confirmed. Again, the floor was opened for additional questions, none were put forth. Chairman Keller asked for a motion to approve the Property Purchases. Commissioner O'Neill motioned to authorize Mr. Burroughs and staff to move forward with the contracts on the pending purchases following any additional due diligence that may be in order. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

- VI. COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT presented by Dr. Mikota, President; Mrs. Amanda Painter, VP, Community Workforce and Ms. Nikki Burgess Executive Director, Workforce Development, Corporate and Community Education

Earlier Dr. Mikota emphasized the importance of workforce training and community enhancement as critical components of the institution's mission. He shared his vision for and the appointment of Amanda Painter as Vice President of Community Enhancement & Workforce Development. This move aligns with SCC's focus on leveraging workforce training to address community needs and industry demands.

Dr. Mikota highlighted the need for SCC to prioritize Continuing Education (CE) "Workforce Development" offerings, which have traditionally been underdeveloped compared to academic programs. Dr. Mikota envisions integrating CE with academics through stackable credits, allowing students to gain skills in CE programs that can later transfer into degree pathways. This approach aims to bridge the gap between workforce training and academics, ensuring both are equally valued and structured to meet local industry needs.

Key initiatives include:

Expanding micro-credential programs for faster skill acquisition and retraining opportunities.

Developing customizable training for individual companies and a comprehensive catalog of structured offerings.

Positioning SCC as a hub for community prosperity by aligning educational pathways with workforce demands.

Dr. Mikota views these efforts as an investment in SCC's identity and its role in enhancing the communities it serves.

At this time Dr. Mikota introduced Mrs. Painter as Vice President of Community Enhancement & Workforce Development.

Mrs. Painter outlined the efforts and the responsibilities of the "Super Structure Team" to integrate Continuing Education (CE) and Workforce Development (WD) into the college's broader strategy to address regional workforce needs.

Key Developments

Formation of the Super Structure Team: Launched in January 2025 by SCC's Executive Leadership team, this initiative aims to strengthen SCC's presence in workforce development.

Staffing Changes:

- Ms. Nikki Burgess was hired as Director of Industry Partnerships for Union County in May 2024 but now focuses on building partnerships with local industries.
- Ms. Holly Nix transitioned from Director of Industry Partnerships to Campus Director for Cherokee and Union County campuses, supporting both student and academic functions.

Due to grants and Title II funding, SCC has added positions such as Success Coach, Academic Advisor, Financial Aid Counselor, and Dual Enrollment Advisor to serve both campuses. This ensures non-credit students receive the same support as credit students.

Strategic Focus:

Evaluation and Expansion of Non-Credit Programs: The division is assessing current offerings and exploring new programs to meet community needs.

Building Industry Partnerships: Strengthening relationships with local industries is a priority to align educational programs with workforce demands.

Unified Processes: Processes for credit and non-credit students have been standardized, breaking down silos between traditional education and workforce development.

Advertising Efforts: Mrs. Painter emphasized the need for better promotion of SCC's offerings to reach a broader audience.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Commissioner Radford questioned whether high growth is achievable. Mrs. Painter highlighted the potential by referencing sister colleges that serve 4,000 students annually in community interest programs alone.

Commissioner Powell-Baker asked what a reasonable goal would be? Mrs. Painter stated that the team is still in the program evaluation stage looking at what the consistent program enrollment numbers are, and they are working diligently to eliminate barriers to programs. Mrs. Painter does expect Ms. Burgess to have a more realistic projection by the end of summer.

SCC aims to identify strategies to replicate such success, particularly in skilled labor trades like welding, CDL training, and heavy equipment operations.

These initiatives reflect SCC's commitment to fostering workforce development while addressing community needs comprehensively.

At this time Mrs. Painter introduced Ms. Nikki Burgess, Executive Director of Workforce Development.

Ms. Burgess's stated that last year SCC created the Director of Industry Partnership roles.

- These roles focus on serving Cherokee and Union counties.
- With the support from the EPIC Grant the team has been expanded by adding a role to also support Spartanburg County.
- The purpose of these roles are to create and maintain strong relationships between the College and industry leaders to ensure that academic programs are aligned with workforce needs.
- This includes developing training programs, internships, and job placement initiatives, as well as facilitating research collaborations.

At this time, Ms. Burgess introduced her team:

- Ms. Nikoya Shaw, Spartanburg County representative
- Mr. Derek Horne, Cherokee County representative

- Mss. Burgess, Union County representative

Key Developments

- There has been significant growth seen in contract training requests specifically from the manufacturing sector.
- Since January of 2025, 25 companies have reached out requesting contract training.

Workforce Partnership Framework

- Director of Industry Partnership (DIP) meets with industry partners to assess needs
- Communicates needs to Ms. Burgess as Executive Director (ED)
- ED shares information with Academic Deans who work collaboratively with DIP/ED to develop and deploy training
- There have already been success stories in Spartanburg County and Cherokee County that have proven to be beneficial to both the College and the industry.

At this time the floor was opened for questions, none were put forth. Chairman Keller thanked Mrs. Painter and Ms. Burgess for presenting.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Keller read over the below announcements:

Staff vs. Student Basketball Game, March 20, 2025, Downtown Campus

SGA Spring Formal, March 21, 2025, Downtown Campus

Chaser's Got Talent, March 26, 2025, Spartanburg Campus

Spartanburger Suite. Contact Donna if you have an interest in attending.

Spring Break April 7 – 11, 2025

April 1, 2025 – Deadline to order regalia for graduation. Contact Donna if you need new regalia.

Golf Tournament, April 7th, 2025, Carolina Country Club

The Crit, May 2nd, 2025, Downtown Spartanburg

SCC = i2 Spring Fling, April 26, 2025, Cherokee County Campus

VIII. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Keller asked for a motion to adjourn to executive session for the specific purpose of having a discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body.

Commissioner Fowler motioned to adjourn to executive session. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the meeting was adjourned to executive session at 5:32 pm.

X. ADJOURN TO OPEN SESSION

Chairman Keller asked for a motion to adjourn to open session. Commissioner King motioned to adjourn to open session. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the meeting was adjourned to open session at 5:32 pm.

Chairman Keller asked for a motion to approve the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body. Commissioner Kennedy motioned to approve the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion. All voted aye.

XI. ADJOURN

Chairman Keller asked for a motion to Adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sarratt motioned to Adjourn. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the meeting Adjourned at 5:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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

Mrs. Tracey Hill, Secretary