Tri-County Technical College Commission Minutes
Ruby Hicks Board Room, Pendleton Campus
April 4, 2022

Present
Tom Strange, Chair
Leon Harris
Hamid Mohsseni
Helen Rosemond-Saunders
Larry Smith
Jim Wanner- remote
John Powell

Present Staff
Dr. Galen DeHay, President
Dan Cooper, Chief of Staff
Dr. Chris Marino, Director of Institutional Effectiveness
Cara Hamilton, VP Business Affairs
Jenni Creamer, AVP for College Transitions
Grayson Kelly, VP of Institutional Advance. & Business Relations
Marci Leake, AVP for Human Resources
Linda Jameison, VP Student Support and Engagement
Dr. Anthony Guiseppi-Elie, VP Acad. Affairs Workforce Develop.
Karen Potter, Sr. Director of Strategic Communication & Engagement
Kathy Brand, Executive Assistant

Absent: Al Young, Jim Kaplan
Guests: Tracy Wactor, Business Affairs; Lisa Garrett, Public Relations

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Strange called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He stated that the appropriate notice had been sent to the media as required by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

II. INVOCATION
Commissioner Powell gave the invocation.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The Chair presented the agenda and asked if there were any changes or additions. Hearing none, the agenda stood approved as submitted.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Chairman Strange presented the February 7, 2022, minutes and asked if there were any changes or additions. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harris moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosemond-Saunders that the minutes from February 7, 2022, be approved as submitted. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

V. CONSENT ITEMS
TCTC Institutional Policies:
- 4-2-1012 College Facility Utilization
- 4-2-1020 Minors on Campus
- 3-2-1051 Repeat Grade
- 3-2-2030 Credit Course Drop-Add Period
- 8-0-1020 Personal Benefit from Projects or Written Materials
- 8-0-1021 Intellectual Property Rights
- 1-6-3010 Americans with Disability Act
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- 3-2-1011 Student Classification

Chairman Strange referred to Dr. DeHay for clarification on the policies to be approved. Dr. DeHay stated the policies are on a three-year revision cycle with only minor verbiage changes. Brief discussion took place regarding the reason for deletion of certain policies. With no further questions, the Chair called for a motion to approve the policies. Commissioner Powell, moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith that the policies be approved as presented. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

VI. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Jim Wanner reported the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, and the following items were discussed:

- The committee reviewed the February 2021-22 month end financials.
- The YTD budget results through February 28, 2022, were consistent with prior month end reports. The College is trending positively going into the final quarter of the fiscal year.
- **Revenue:** Summer session registrations opened on March 28.
- State appropriations are ahead of budget for the year by approximately $1 million.
- Local appropriations are on target for the year.
- **Expenses:** There are no surprises or significant spending ahead of budget other than timing-related items like software, insurance and dues and memberships. Barring any unexpected expenditures related to COVID19 or other unplanned events, the College’s revenue and expenses are tracking as expected and at this time. The College anticipates net favorable budgetary results for the year ending June 30, 2022.
- The Finance Committee reviewed tuition and fee recommendations from the Administration. The Committee had a robust discussion regarding the financial impact the pandemic has had on the students and the communities served. In all discussions, the committee’s top priority was to ensure TCTC remains affordable, especially for students with the greatest financial need recognizing that at some point tuition will have to go up in relation to the value and services delivered to our students and communities and to address increasing operating costs.

The Finance Committee voted unanimously to freeze in-county tuition at $185.33 per credit hour beginning Fall 2022 for fiscal year 22-23.

- Course material fees representing the recovery of educational supply expenses for each academic program were reviewed. Course material fees are a pass-through of actual educational supplies expense by program and are not intended to be a source of net incremental revenue. Historically course material fees have been capped at $150 per course, however, due to increasing educational supply and material costs a recommendation was made to increase the cap to $200.

The Finance Committee approved the recommended course material fees for FY22-23 by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Wanner requested that the Commission accept the tuition and course material fees recommendations by the Finance Committee as presented.

Chairman Strange thanked Commissioner Wanner for his report. He reiterated that the tuition rates and course material fees come as a recommendation from the Finance Committee and called for a vote. The vote to freeze in-county tuition at $185.33 per credit hour beginning Fall 2022 for fiscal year 2022-
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2023 and to accept the recommended course material fee cap increase to $200 for FY21-22 was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Wanner concluded his report reviewing the following information:

- A student affordability financial aid analysis showed that students with the most need continue to attend TCTC with no tuition or mandatory fee obligations. If the Workforce Scholarship and Grants for the Future funding, as currently included in the HW&M budget, remains in the approved State budget, all TCTC students will attend with ZERO cost for tuition and fees.
- College administration reviewed the estimated FY22-23 County Budget requests.
- The College’s formal county budget requests will be shared with the County Finance Directors and at the individual County Councils member and County Administrators over the next several months.
- In anticipation of the operating budget development process that is currently underway for FY 22-23, College administration highlighted projected budgetary challenges as follows:
  a. Proposed State mandated increases (i.e. compensation and employer health insurance)
  b. Compensation increases – internal and market equity/alignment
  c. Increasing costs of insurance (property and liability) provided by the Insurance Reserve Fund
  d. Increasing costs of other operating costs including but not limited to utilities, maintenance, technology, and the impact of costs related supply chain issues.
- The College’s external auditors issued the final FY20-21 Audit Report with an unmodified opinion with no management comments or recommendations.

VII. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dr. DeHay introduced and welcomed Dr. Anthony Guiseppi-Elie, the new Vice President of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development (VPAAWD). In this role, Dr. Guiseppi-Elie serves as chief academic officer and is responsible for working with faculty to build and promote relevant, innovative and high-quality programs that support student success. He also oversees workforce services that promote financial stability and economic growth and ensures that the College’s workforce training programs meet the current and future needs of business and industry. Dr. Guiseppi-Elie expressed his excitement and appreciation to the Board and stated he looks forward to being part of the leadership team at TCTC.

- **Legislative Update** – Dr. DeHay asked Dan Cooper to give the Legislative update. Cooper reported that the following budget version has moved from the House to the Senate:
  o $62 million system wide for “free” college continuation
  o $ 6 million for TCTC Automotive/Logistics/Utility Center
  o 3% base pay raise/ $1500 bonus/$0 fringe employee portion
  o $4.2 million maintenance, renovations, and replacement

- **Board Goals** – Dr. DeHay reported the following status updates for the Board goals:
  Goal 1: Complete Phase 1 preliminary design for the Oconee Hall project.
    o 12 architectural firms responded to the RFQ.
    o A Committee will interview three firms and select one. General contractor to be chosen three-four months later.
    o Charrettes with internal and external stakeholders will occur and inform the architectural design.
    o Estimated to be a year-long process.
  Goal 2: Develop strategies that mitigate threats to business continuity.
COVID-19 Action Team continues to track and monitor cases. On-campus testing and vaccination clinics continue to be held.

- Fiscal Affairs continues to track, coordinate and disburse HEERF III institutional funds based on student and institutional priorities. All student HEERF funds have been disbursed.

Goal 3: Increase business and industry partnerships to support workforce needs.

- Pickens County Enterprise Campus feasibility study is in process.
- Partnership with HMR Veterans Services to create new CNA to LPN incumbent worker program.
- A new B&I engagement strategy is being developing.
- 20 new business collaboratives have been initiated.

Goal 4: Advocate for TCTC’s value with state and local government and economic development groups.

- Legislative breakfast in January with the entire AOP delegation.
- Meetings with Walhalla City Council and Anderson County Council to plan events where underserved populations can engage with the College.
- Meetings with Pickens County officials focused on economic development collaboration.

Community Outreach – Dr. DeHay stated the College has been active in the Hispanic community, particularly in Oconee County. Over the past few months, the college has been working with Walhalla City Council Member Saria Melendez and members of the City of Walhalla Diversity and Inclusion Committee to create outreach activities aimed at educating individuals about what Tri-County can do for them. The first outreach activity took place January 30 following a Sunday worship service at Light of the World Church in Walhalla, where Tri-County staff was on hand to discuss the many educational opportunities available at the College. As a follow up to that event, an open house at the Oconee Campus was held. In Anderson, a meeting with County Council member Glenn Davis has taken place to discuss outreach efforts to residents in the Homeland Park area.

Dr. DeHay reported the College partnered with Ten at the Top to host a Senior Issues Forum at the Easley Campus last fall. The College has also partnered with Ten at the Top’s Creating a Safer Upstate initiative to host a series of virtual community law enforcement forums with community leaders and one in-person community forum at the Anderson Campus last fall. The goal of the forums is to provide opportunities for law enforcement and the community to convene to discuss community issues and emerging law enforcement topics. Plans have been made to host an in-person forum in Pickens County on May 3 at the Easley Campus and in Oconee County on June 14 at the Blue Ridge Community Center.

Dr. DeHay stated the Men of Color initiative is now a registered, student-led organization. The goal of this student organization is to create a sense of belonging to a peer group and the larger community with the desired outcome of improving retention and student success. Men of Color has hosted a number of successful in-person and virtual events since it launched in 2019, and a number of events are planned for the spring semester, including the first-ever Men of Color Scholarship Golf Tournament on April 7.

DeHay concluded his outreach report stating the College recently launched the IDEA Council. IDEA stands for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access. The council’s primary purpose is to guide, oversee and champion the College’s diversity, equity, access and inclusion initiatives. During the Council’s introductory meeting, the group reviewed past work, how IDEA fits within the College’s mission and vision, and current activities that focus on equitable student outcomes. Next steps are to define priorities and then implement those priorities starting in the fall.
VIII. CHAIR’S REPORT

South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners Report: Commissioner Rosemond-Saunders reported the following information from the March 2, 2022, SCATCC Board meeting: Chairman Smalls welcomed Commissioners and guests.

Finance Committee: The Finance Report was provided by Chairman Smalls, on behalf of Commissioner Pierson. It was stated by the Executive Director that a report on financial variances would be provided at the May meeting.

Governance Committee: Chairman Smalls reported that Commissioner McMillian had agreed to become SCATCC’s representative to the Southern Region of the ACCT, following the retirement of Commissioner Gary Powers from the position.

Governmental Relations Committee: Commissioner Priester recognized and thanked Executive Director Ashley Jaillete for an excellent new trustee training program. She reminded attendees and encouraged attendance at the March 23, 2022, State Tech Day Luncheon event; the May 13-15 Strategic Planning Retreat, and the ACCT National conference in N.Y.

Mr. Billy Routh: Advocacy/Legislative update report included:
- Action on current legislation must be completed by May or wait until next year
- Currently discussion of tax relief options is in House and Senate
- Discussion continues on the bill to prohibit mask/vaccine mandates
- Budget: Ways and Means funding for K-12 teacher increases; public safety; Higher Ed., tax decrease for South Carolinians; state employees’ one-time bonus was announced.

Communications and Awards Committee: Commissioner Barnes commended Executive Director Ashley Jaillete on the awards booklet and the enhanced awards format. Identifying and recognizing commissioners who have served their Technical College faithfully over the years was a noteworthy and commendable. Going forward:
- Each award area is to have a nominee in the future. If assistance is needed by colleges in completing the forms, they are requested to contact the committee for support.
- For the current year, each area has a nominee for recognition at the state level which will be forwarded to the Southern Region for movement to the National ACCT Committee for consideration.

System President’s Report: Dr. Hardee commended commissioners on the developed mission statement which focuses on supporting all South Carolina Technical Colleges. He reported on the following:
- Proviso is in process to guarantee students transferring from technical colleges with an AA the ability to transfer to a four-year college with full credits, entering as juniors.
- Proviso description models the current agreement structure currently in place between Horry Georgetown and Coastal Carolina.
- The needs-based funding has changed with CHE. This funding went from 36% to 21%. The concern is being addressed, with hopes of an appropriate remedy.
- Overall college enrollment is up 5%.
- Governor’s Bill for Technical Colleges - $62 million.
- Pilots for serving inmate populations (PELL Funding). Short-term training.

Presidents’ Council Report: Dr. DeHay updated the board on the following initiatives/actions being taken by the President’s Council:
- The launching of an EMS Technical College Pilot Program
- EMT Basic Training launch date will take place
- Four colleges will be involved in the program
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- Technical Colleges: Tri-County; Horry-Georgetown; Midlands and Technical College of the Lowcountry
- Programs were identified based on DHEC identified Service Regions
- Technical College Legislative Day was canceled for this year.

Report of Colleges:
York Technical College’s presentation was made by Commissioner Geri Hopkins and Aiken Technical College’s presentation was made by Dr. Forest Mahan. Both presented achievements, awards, and highlights of their colleges.

Chairman’s Report: Chairman Smalls encouraged all board members to participate in the May Strategic Planning Retreat.

Executive Director’s Report: Executive Director Jaillette reported the Day of Learning evaluations were positive and plans for the February 1, 2023, Day of Learning are underway and include an awards program following the luncheon. Arrangements have been made for the Strategic planning retreat in May at Wampee Conference Center. A new State Board representative will be joining the SCATTC Board.

Commission Committee assignments: Chairman Strange presented the 2022-2023 Committees of the Commission noting the changes of Commissioners Young and Mohsenni being added to the Finance Committee and himself becoming the Ex-Officio on each committee as Board Chair.

Announcements:
Dr. DeHay announced the dates for the following events:
- Spring Convocation: Friday, May 6, 2022 at 10:00am Parker Auditorium
- Spring Commencement: Saturday, May 14 at 1:00pm Littlejohn Coliseum
- Committee meetings for the Commission - May 25, 2022
- Next Commission Board meeting - June 13, 2022

IX. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 1:40p.m.

Approved: ____________________________
Thomas F. Strange, Commission Chair Date: 6/13/2022