



**Date:** Monday, January 27, 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 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. James

**Absent:** Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner King, Dr. Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Keller called the meeting to order at 4:41 pm.

II. COMMISSION MINUTES

Chairman Keller presented the December 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 O'Neill motioned to approve the December 17, 2024, meeting minutes, Commissioner Bell seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

III. 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 Bell motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items, Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

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

Dr. Mikota started his remarks by highlighting an event attended at Littlejohn Coliseum. Mascot Takeover was held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, during the women's basketball game and SCC's Chaser was in attendance and represented SCC proudly.

Other topics of discussion were:

Enrollment Growth - reflects changes with social media and student activities

Financial Report - 47% growth increase in operational revenues since 2019-2020

Introduction of the new SCC Student Government Association

- Jalyn Tate – President of our Student Government Association
- Stephen Mobley – Vice-President of our Student Government Association
- Dr. Demario Watts – Director of Student Life

January 2025 enrollment is up 6.4% in headcount and 3% in FTE

- This increase is the result of retention of students based on the increase in the spring vs. the fall
- Boosting Retention through Academic Advising, Success Coaching, Faculty Training, and Workshop Attendance

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, which was incredibly destructive to this area as well as Western North Carolina, Spartanburg Community College was able to support a sister institution in Henderson County, Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) in Flat Rock, NC by delivering a trailer full of items to help with the recovery of the faculty/staff and students. Laura Leatherwood, President, of BRCC and the BRCC Board of Trustees sent a resolution to SCC expressing appreciation for the timely and generous response. A copy of this resolution was given to each Commissioner.

Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

Dr. Mikota wanted to bring to the attention of the Commission that CHE has distributed proposed edits to the Statewide Higher Education Dual Enrollment Policy without the input from the Technical College System who is the largest provider for Dual Enrollment in South Carolina. Tim Hardee, System President, responded by letter to CHE that the State System office and the 16 South Carolina Technical Colleges were opposed to the edits. Each president from the 16 Technical Colleges, including Dr. Mikota, signed the letter of opposition.

SC NEXUS – Spartanburg Community College is currently working on a grant in the amount of \$12.6 million for a SC Technical College System Education and Workforce Center. This Center will help students develop the skills necessary for career success in energy-related industries.

Earlier today Dr. Mikota had an interview with WSPA News to announce a partnership with Palmetto InnovaSphere. Cecilia Zapata-Harms, CEO of Palmetto InnovaSphere was also involved in the interview. AI Body is a new platform for nursing students which is a sophisticated simulation system/software that can replicate real life patient situations. SCC has signed a 1-year pilot program contract; UNC Chapel Hill is the only other College in South Carolina working with this program.

Spartanburg Community College is working diligently to invest in a Clean Room at the Tyger River Campus. A Clean Room will open up opportunities for Bio-Technology training and to attract companies in this sphere.

Dr. Mikota has also been working on Quantum Computing and Micro-Electronics with the assistance of Commissioner O'Neill and Commissioner Smith. Last week there were discussions with the Department of Commerce to target bringing opportunities to the area.

The preparation for the reaffirmation of reaccreditation is on schedule to be released before March 1, 2025.

Dr. Mikota announced at the December Commission Meeting that Spartanburg Community College was taken off Monitoring Report at the 2024 Annual SACSCOC meeting which was held earlier in December.

On November 19, 2024, Dr. Mikota participated in the South Carolina Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) meeting. An updated forecast for the current fiscal year, FY 2024-25, was issued and an initial forecast for the following year, FY 2025-26. For FY 25, the BEA increased its estimate by \$297.2 million to \$13.65 billion. For FY 26, the BEA issued a forecast of \$13.98 billion, reflecting expected growth of 2.5 percent, or \$334.7 million, over the revised FY 25 forecast.

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

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

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

Revenues:

Curriculum = \$26,738,039 which reflects 79% of the budgeted amount  
Continuing Education = \$948,733 which reflects 53% of the budgeted amount  
Auxiliary = \$1,327,365 which reflects 93% 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 = \$276,354 which reflects 2% of the budgeted amount  
Other = \$919,912 which reflects 71% of the budgeted amount  
Total Revenue = \$47,412,432 which reflects 70% of the budgeted amount

Expenses:

Full-time Salaries = \$12,109,633 which reflects 45% spent of the budgeted amount  
Full-time Fringe = \$5,702,360 which reflects 47% spent of the budgeted amount  
Part-time Salaries = \$2,727,907 which reflects 40% spent of the budgeted amount  
Part-time Fringe = \$681,977 which reflects 40% spent of the budgeted amount  
O&M Expenses = \$8,311,374 which reflects 42% spent of the budgeted amount  
Encumbrances = \$3,818,806 which reflects 0% spent of the budgeted amount

Total Expenses = \$33,352,056 which reflects 50% spent of the budgeted amount

As of December 31, 2024, SCC received 70% of the budgeted revenues, which is a revenue increase of \$5,421,677 in comparison to December 31, 2023. There are no major issues regarding the budget. Expenditure as a percentage of the budget was 50%, which is 2% less than the previous year.

At this time 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.

#### VI. CURRICULUM REVENUES AND FEE

This report highlights the curriculum revenues and fees charged to students as well as what was budgeted for bad debt write-off. As of December 31, 2024, \$133,478 has been collected.

#### VII. STUDENT & COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT

Dr. Obi presented Policy VI-550 Social Media, which is a new policy, as the College currently does not have a policy for social media. This policy states that Spartanburg Community College will follow the state policy guidelines for appropriate social media usage by employees of the College.

Dr. Obi also presented Policy V-20 Student Activities which is an update from 2020. The changes to this policy are:

Title change: Recruiting and Student Life Coordinator was changed to Director of Student Life (or designee).

Statement was added: The President delegates the responsibility and oversight of internal fundraising to the Director of Student Life or designee.

The President's Cabinet has reviewed and approved both policies.

The floor was opened for questions, none were put forth.

Chairman Keller as for a motion to approve Policy VI-550 Social Media and Policy V-20 Student Activities. Commissioner O'Neill motioned to approve Policy VI-550 Social Media and Policy V-20 Student Activities, Commissioner Sarratt seconded the motion, and all voted Aye.

#### VIII. NEW WEBSITE

Ms. James shared the new website which was launched in October of 2024.

- Homepage has had a complete redesign.
- The goal was to make everything accessible and easy to find; all information can be found with one or two clicks.
- Implemented "Ask Chaser" which is a chatbot. Anyone can enter a question which will then be directed to the admissions/outreach team.
- There are approximately 100 inquiries a week.

- A live person responds to each of these inquiries usually within 48 hours.
- Schools of Learning
  - This is a new tab where all course offerings are listed by major.
  - All information about courses are only a click away.

#### Search and Compare

- Located on the Schools of Learning page.
- This feature shows overviews of the different programs.
- Allows students to compare programs to help with decisions.
- This feature puts information in the hands of potential students to help them make informed decisions.

#### Events Calendar

- Updated to be easily accessible.
- Events can be views by campus, category, and community wide events.
- More user friendly.

#### The Foundation

- This page can be found under the “Our Foundation” tab.
- New interactive look.

#### Blog

- For the first time Spartanburg Community College has a blog.
- ‘Tail Waggin’ Updates’.
- Located under the “About SCC” tab.
- This blog is designed to keep the SCC community informed and engaged with the latest news and blog posts.

This concluded Ms. James presentation. Chairman Keller thanked Ms. James for her time and the information.

## IX. SCC STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SCC SGA)

Dr. Demario Watts, Director of Student Life as well as the SCC SGA Advisor, thanked the Commission and Dr. Mikota for allowing the SCC SGA to present.

Dr. Watts, then introduced Jaylen Johnson SCC SGA President and Stephen Mobley SCC SGA Vice President. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Mobley are part of a team of four who have been working hard this year. Dr. Watts has been in higher ed for 15 years and has never had an SGA work as hard as this team has.

At this time, Dr. Watts turned the presentation over to Ms. Johnson and Mr. Mobley. Mr. Johnson then reintroduced herself and Mr. Mobley as well as the rest of the SGA Executive Board for 2024-2025 which includes Treasurer: Mags Rosdol and Secretary: Ashley Tinsley.

Topics of Discussion were:

#### 2024-2025 Goals:

- Being an advocate for all students across every campus
- Increase SGAs visibility
- Assisting Student Life at boosting student participation in programs and events
- Updating the SGA constitution

#### Fall 2024

- Student Government was able to assist Student Life in the planning and setting up of the school's annual Halloween party, which has been one of the biggest events this semester with 120 total in attendance.
- We have raised 1,313.70 for the four fundraisers we have conducted; all profits are aiding the Chaser's Classic.

#### Spring 2025

- We will continue collecting data and feedback for the creation of the Alma Mater.
- SGA will continue raising funding for Chaser's Classic: SCC's first formal dance for students.
- Our team is planning and facilitating three Student Organization Presidents meetings this semester.
- We will partner and facilitate focus groups in March with the Office of Student Life.

This concluded the presentation, and the floor was opened for questions. Chairman Keller asked how the SGA was integrating students from all the different campuses. Ms. Johnson responded that this had proved difficult but that the SGA is hosting different events at the different campuses to help integrate students. Once again the floor was opened to questions, no additional questions were put forth. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Mobley thanked the Commission for their time and attention.

Chairman Keller thanked Ms. Johnson and Mr. Mobley for the presentation and the dedication to getting the SGA started and successful.

#### X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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

Before the meeting adjourned, Dr. Mikota introduced and welcomed Mrs. Andrena Powell-Baker as the new Union County Representative joining the Commission.

XI. ADJOURN

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 5:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracey Hill". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully Submitted by:".

Mrs. Tracey Hill, Secretary