



Area Commission Board

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

ZOOM

Members Present

Meghan Barp
Paul Batson
Tom Britt
Jo Hackl
Hunter Howard
Dean Jones
Ray Martin
Coleman Shouse
Keith Smith
David Stafford

Members Absent

Ray Lattimore, Chair
Dr. Burke Royster

Staff Present

George Abraham
Eric Bedingfield
Kelvin Byrd
Julie Eddy
Dr. Kerwin Graham
Artie Hammond
Babette Jones
Dr. Candice Lewis
Becky Mann
Dr. Larry Miller, President
Chuck Baker
David Cartee

Guests

Elaine Cook, Now CFO
Chad Cousins, Greenville Tech Foundation Chair
Keith Munson, Rimom Law

Call to Order

Vice Chair Jo Hackl called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed board members, staff, and guests. She confirmed that the press had been notified in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and that the meeting agenda had been publicly posted on the Greenville Technical College website. A quorum of board members was present.

Approval of the January 21, 2026, Minutes

Vice Chair Hackl presented the minutes from January 21, 2026, for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Coleman Shouse and seconded by Mr. Ray Martin; the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Reordering

Vice Chair Hackl requested a motion to move the Education and Training Review Committee Update ahead of the President's Report, due to timing considerations. That motion was made by Mr. Dean Jones and seconded by Ms. Meghan Barp. The motion passed unanimously.

Education and Training Review Committee Update

On behalf of the Education and Training Review Committee, Mr. Martin presented proposed new degree and certificate programs for approval by the board:

New Embedded Certificate: Construction Surveying and Estimating, CAS.CET6. This certificate is embedded within the Construction Engineering Technology associate degree.

Hearing no discussion, Vice Chair Hackl moved to a vote. The program as presented by Mr. Martin on behalf of the Education and Training Review Committee passed unanimously.

New Degree Concentration, Computer Technology-AI for Data Systems, AAS.CPT.ADS. There are two embedded certificates: AI for Data Systems (CAS.ADSY7) and AI Foundations (CAS.AIF6).

Hearing no discussion, Vice Chair Hackl moved to a vote. The program as presented by Mr. Martin on behalf of the Education and Training Review Committee passed unanimously.

New Degree Concentration, Computer Technology-AI for Cybersecurity Systems, AAS.CPT.ACY. There is one embedded certificate, AI for Cybersecurity Systems (CAS.ACYB7)

After brief discussion, Vice Chair Hackl moved to a vote. The program as presented by Mr. Martin on behalf of the Education and Training Review Committee passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Dr. Larry Miller presented updates on reorganization progress; Management Council updates, including the first ever meeting of 150+ supervisors after the 4DX Summit; Top Ten Student Success Behaviors dashboard with data from surveying students; and upcoming key dates.

Finance Report

Mr. Hunter Howard presented an overview of the budget as of 2/28/2026, stating that we are on target for the year and expect to be at budget by the end of the year.

Mr. Howard introduced Ms. Elaine Cook of Now CFO. Ms. Cook is currently reviewing processes and procedures and will report on her findings at subsequent meetings.

Audit Committee Update

Mr. Tom Britt presented updates from the February 17, 2026, Audit Committee retreat. The Internal Audit Charter & Mandate, the Internal Audit Strategy, and the 2026 Risk Assessment & Audit Plan were approved by the committee and signed copies will be available to all Commissioners in BoardEffect.

Mr. Britt stated that the committee expects to be in full compliance with the Global Internal Audit Standards within the next 12 months.

Greenville Tech Foundation Report

Foundation Chair Chad Cousins presented the Greenville Tech February 2026 Foundation Report and reported that Ms. Babette Jones has accepted the role of interim Foundation Executive Director until the permanent position is filled. December financials were completed and the audit is proceeding. The 2026 budget of \$1.3 million was approved.

Mr. Cousins reported that board engagement is strong, and thanked President Miller for his support with donor engagement.

South Carolina Association for Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC) Update

Mr. Coleman Shouse reported that SCATCC is monitoring legislative activity during the session. They continue to work with the state legislators to support the South Carolina Technical Colleges.

Commission for Higher Education (CHE) Update

Mr. Paul Batson reported on the March CHE meeting, attending the Finance Committee and Student Services Committee. He stated that the CHE website provides comprehensive data on all public colleges in South Carolina.

4DX Summit Update

Mr. Jones reported on attending the March 4DX Summit, stating the room was packed with employees reporting on their WIGS (Wildly Important Goals). The Winter Olympics theme featured costumes, and over 400 WIGs have been achieved in 5 years. Post event surveys showed 81% rated the summit positively. The new College Big Wig is to increase the graduation rate from 26% to 44% by 2032, with a sub-WIG of increasing the graduation rate from 26% to 36% by 2027.

Old and New Business

With no other business to discuss, Vice Chair Hackl adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.