Greenville Technical College Board

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Barton Campus, Administrative Building 123, Executive Board Room 134

Members Present

Paul Batson
Tom Britt
Jo Hackl
Hunter Howard
Dean Jones
Ray Lattimore, Chair
Ray Martin
Dr. Burke Royster
Coleman Shouse
Keith Smith
Kenneth Southerlin
David Stafford

Members Absent

Staff Present

Eric Bedingfield
Kelvin Byrd
Jacqui DiMaggio
Julie Eddy
Dr. Joshua Friesen
Artie Hammond
Susan Jones
Dr. Matteel Knowles
Becky Mann
Dr. Keith Miller, President
Dr. Larry Miller
Lauren Simer
Wendy Walden
Ann Wright

Guests

Keith Munson, Rimon Law
Chad Cousins, GT Foundation Board Chair

Chair Lattimore called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and welcomed board members, staff, and guests. Chair Lattimore announced that the press had been notified of the meeting under the Freedom of Information Act. Chair Lattimore acknowledged that the agenda was posted on the GTC website, and a quorum of board members was present.

Chair Lattimore encouraged all board members to use BoardEffect to access meeting documents rather than relying on paper copies.

Chair Lattimore recognized and thanked board committee chairs, support staff, and faculty for all they do to keep the board updated on committee meetings and action items.

Special Recognition of Mr. Southerlin

Chair Lattimore presented Mr. Southerlin with a resolution recognizing his pivotal role and many years of service to the GTC board and community. Mr. Southerlin did not seek reappointment in order to devote more time to his wife and family. Mr. Southerlin was humbled by the recognition, as he received a standing ovation. Chair Lattimore made a motion to accept the resolution as presented to Mr. Southerlin. Ms. Hackl seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee

Chair Lattimore stated that according to the Bylaws, at the May board meeting, the chair is to appoint a nominating committee for executive officers for the next two-year term. Mr. Howard will chair the nominating committee with Chair Lattimore and Mr. Smith as members. The committee will have a slate of officers to present for approval at the June board meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Chair Lattimore presented the minutes for approval of the January 15, 2025, meeting; the March 5, 2025, Special Called Board meeting; and the March 14, 2025, Special Called Board meeting during which Dr. Larry Miller was selected as the third college president. The minutes were presented in the form of one motion. Ms. Hackl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with minor changes that Ms. Snyder has incorporated in BoardEffect. Mr. Southerlin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Finance Report

Mr. Southerlin asked Ms. DiMaggio to present the finance report. The report is attached and available in BoardEffect.

Ms. DiMaggio reported:

Revenue

- Student revenues are 4% above the budget and 10% above the prior year because of enrollment growth and efforts to register students for classes earlier.
- Local government is above the budget and prior year because of an increase in the growth of county taxes.
- State appropriations are above the budget and 5% above the prior year.
- Auxiliary services revenue is 27% above the budget and 39% above the prior year because of growth in bookstore revenue, primarily because of the closure of the bookstore across the street.
- Other revenues are on track with the budget and approximately 4% above the prior year because of an increase in rental income.

Expenses

- Instructional expenses are on track with the budget and approximately 2% above the prior year primarily because of the state-mandated salary increases.
- Academic support is on track with the budget and approximately 9% above the prior year because of vacant positions in the prior year.
- Student services are approximately 2% below the budget and 14% above the prior year because of added positions in that area.
- Operations and maintenance of plant are on budget and 3% above the prior year because of the timing of some purchases.

- Administrative and general expenses are 2% below the budget and 1% below the prior year.
- Technology expenses are approximately 23% below the budget because of the timing of invoices for the Anthology implementation and paying for two ERP systems as Anthology is implemented.
- Remissions and exemptions are above the budget and the prior year. Starting spring 2025, SCWins scholarships will be available for all dual enrolled students at the college, regardless of major.
- Auxiliary services expenses are up because of the costs associated with the bookstore.
- Capital expenditures are lower than the budget and last year because the college used state funds for improvement instead of operating budget funds.
- The debt service payment will be made in May or June.

President Miller stated that the Finance Committee will bring the FY 2025-26 budget to the June board meeting for approval, as well as a proposed tuition increase.

Audit Committee

Mr. Howard stated the Audit Committee met at 11:00 a.m. this morning. Updates were given from the external auditor who reported that planning for the fiscal year audit has started, the internal auditor gave his annual report of audits conducted over the past twelve months, and Mr. Abraham, chief information officer, presented an updated disaster recovery plan for review and comments.

Marketing, Recruiting, and Enrollment Committee

Mr. Martin stated the Marketing, Recruiting, and Enrollment Committee met at 9:00 a.m. this morning. Mr. Martin introduced Ms. Simer and Dr. Friesen to provide highlights of the meeting.

Ms. Simer stated the college has reached over 100% of its Summer 2025 enrollment goal and 104% of credit hours. The college has reached 37% of its Fall 2025 enrollment goal and 40% of credit hours.

Ms. Simer introduced Dr. Friesen, director of marketing and communications, who recently received his doctorate in educational leadership from Western Carolina University. Dr. Knowles served as his advisor for a thesis examining how strategic communications can help improve access to dual enrollment among underserved students. Dr. Friesen provided an overview of his findings aimed at helping communities and families understand the benefits of dual enrollment including college and staff training in Spanish, translating standard office procedures, communicating the enrollment process and documents, a Bilingual Student Ambassador Program, and targeted community outreach to churches and faith-based organizations. Dr. Friesen noted that the college has strong community partnerships, facilitating outreach to specific communities and allowing the college to host various external educational events.

Performance and Evaluation Committee

Ms. Hackl stated the Performance and Evaluation Committee met at 10:00 a.m. this morning.

President Miller provided an update on the 2024-25 Institutional Objectives performance metrics and the action plans. A copy of the report is attached.

Ms. Hackl noted that the committee will meet in June to discuss the Institutional Objectives and asked the board to submit any suggestions or recommendations for consideration.

President Miller referenced the key accomplishments handout that was distributed.

President's Report

- Groundbreaking was held for the Center for Welding and Automation Excellence, the contractor is onsite, fencing is up, and dirt will be moved as soon as the required county permits are issued.
- Campus security upgrades continue to be implemented. Northwest, Brashier, CMI, and Barton are completed.
- Thanks to involvement with Complete College America, the college has moved away from developmental/traditional courses and instead now offers co-requisite courses in math and English. As a result, the college has tripled math and doubled English success rates in credit courses.
- There are quite a few areas that could be impacted by funding changes at the federal level. President Miller assured the board that the college will work to prevent any students from falling through the cracks and will work to support their success.
- Center for Industrial Cyber and AI is the next groundbreaking. Dr. Larry Miller, his team, Mr. Mike McCormick with the GT Foundation, and a few staff went on a benchmarking trip to view the Smart Factory at Wichita State University.
- According to the latest Newsweek ranking of online education providers, GTC remains first in South Carolina, number seven among technical colleges nationwide, and number 43 among all colleges and universities.
- As information, the board of Brashier Middle College sent a proposal to GTC offering to purchase the BMC building at a cost below the appraised value, which is not in alignment with state policies. The college will keep the existing MOU in place and the option to purchase the building open.
- As information, October 17, 2025, will be the investiture ceremony for the incoming president, Dr. Larry Miller, at the Peace Center starting at 10:00 a.m.
- Ms. Wright addressed items distributed to each board member related to President Miller's retirement celebration coming up in June, along with the annual report for the Foundation. The Foundation expects to reach their $3 million goal in June. Ms. Wright noted that the Foundation has been able to gain $349,000 in support for the June event because of admiration and respect for President Miller in this community. Ms. Wright stated that 25% of what the Foundation has raised will go to the Keith and Heidie Miller Endowed Scholarship Fund, anticipated to be $40 - $50,000.
- To follow up on President Miller's comment about potential calls from board members from charter schools, Ms. Hackl noted that there is a policy in place that calls regarding board business should be referred to Chair Lattimore.

McAlister Study Committee

Mr. Shouse provided an update on the McAlister Study Committee. As of today, the committee has extended the due diligence period with one item left from the City of Greenville stating the parking lot improvements Publix and Lee Foods have agreed to is acceptable. The closing date is slated for June 6, 2025.

South Carolina Association for Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC) Update

Mr. Shouse did not have anything to report from SCATCC.

Chair Lattimore noted that there would be a change to the agenda after the CHE Update. The board will adjourn into the Enterprise Campus Authority Board meeting. After the Enterprise Campus Authority Board meeting, the board will reconvene to the board meeting to go into executive session.

Commission for Higher Education (CHE) Update

Mr. Batson provided a CHE update. The last meeting was held on May 1, 2025. The next CHE meeting will be held on June 4-5, 2025, in Greenville at the Barton Campus with a tour of BMW, a tour of the Prisma Center for Health and Life Sciences, and a dinner/tour at the Center for Manufacturing Innovation.

Old and New Business

Chair Lattimore reminded the board that the next ACCT conference will be held in New Orleans on October 22 – 25, 2025. Chair Lattimore, Mr. Stafford, and possibly, Mr. Shouse or Ms. Hackl will participate in a panel discussion with Dr. Larry Miller on Complete College America. Chair Lattimore strongly encouraged board members to attend this conference.

Mr. Stafford made a motion to enter an executive session at 1:40 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Ms. Hackl seconded the motion. The motion carried. Chair Lattimore asked Ms. Eddy and Ms. Wright to stay.

No action was taken during the executive session. Mr. Howard made a motion to adopt a resolution from the Area Commission for President Keith Miller's upcoming retirement. Mr. Martin seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Paul Batson made a motion to confer the title of President Emeritus upon President Keith Miller. Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

There being no other business, Ms. Hackl motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Shouse seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.