Greenville Technical College Board

MINUTES

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Barton Campus, Prisma Health Center for Health & Life Sciences
Building 101, Multipurpose Room 010

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Staff Present

Eric Bedingfield
Jacqui DiMaggio
Julie Eddy
Dr. Kerwin Graham
Susan Jones, via Zoom
Dr. Candice Lewis
Becky Mann
Dr. Larry Miller, President
Lauren Simer
Wendy Walden
Ann Wright

Guests

Chad Cousins, GT Foundation Board Chair
Keith Munson, Rimon Law
Victoria Oestreich, Urban Land Institute

Chair Lattimore called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. and welcomed board members, staff, and guests. He confirmed that the press had been notified in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and noted that the meeting agenda was publicly posted on the Greenville Technical College website. A quorum of board members was present.

Chair Lattimore also welcomed two newly appointed vice presidents, Dr. Candice Lewis and Dr. Kerwin Graham, noting their contributions will make a significant difference to the college and its students.

Chair Lattimore introduced Ms. Victoria Oestreich, Director of the Urban Land Institute's Advisory Services Program. Ms. Oestreich explained that ULI is a global nonprofit with 48,000 members focused on shaping the future of the built environment. She highlighted the Advisory Services Program, which brings together multidisciplinary experts to address community land-use challenges, and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to assist the college in exploring potential opportunities for McAlister Square.

Approval of the Minutes

Chair Lattimore presented the minutes for approval from June 18, 2025. Ms. Hackl moved to approve the minutes as presented, noting that Ms. Green had incorporated minor revisions in BoardEffect. Mr. Batson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

President's Report

- President Miller thanked Ms. Hackl and Mr. Howard for their 10 years of service to the Greenville Technical College Area Commission.
- President Miller welcomed internal hires Dr. Lewis and Dr. Graham, highlighting their appointments as a reflection of the college's leadership depth and opportunities for promotion.
- President Miller presented a high-level overview of the college's organizational structure, noting that it is industry standard, guided by the system office, and supported by peer groups to ensure alignment with best practices.
- President Miller noted the following major achievements and updates:
  - Preliminary fall enrollment increased by 5%, surpassing 11,000 students, compared with a 4% system-wide growth average.
  - The college was recognized as a military-friendly institution, with the Veterans' Financial Aid Team receiving a Silver Level Award from the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs.
  - Aspen Institute – Unlocking Opportunities: The college is one of 55 community colleges nationwide and the only institution in South Carolina selected for this initiative to enhance programs and improve student outcomes.
  - Board member Meghan Barp and the college's vice president for advancement, Ann Wright, have been recognized as two out of 23 Most Influential Leaders by SC BIZ News.
  - Early enrollment initiatives by 4DX teams led to 7,004 students registered for fall by July 1, an increase of 1,500 students over last year.
  - CCA Advising Initiative – The college hired eight new full-time advisors, resulting in a 17% increase in summer advising appointments. Improved advising is expected to help an estimated 230 additional students persist and is projected to generate $551,000 in tuition revenue. The average wait time for an advising appointment has also been reduced to under 30 minutes.
  - President Miller highlighted key facilities projects, including the on-track Center for Welding and Automation Excellence, new HVAC and industrial electricity labs, the relocation of the nursing program to main campus, and the upcoming demolition of UT 104. The $45 million Center for Industrial Cybersecurity and AI renovation has $24 million secured, and a feasibility study was completed for the Dental Health Innovation Center to support growing programs. These projects are reported to the state and reflect ongoing campus development.
  - Benchmarking opportunities: Mr. Vincent Weaver visited several African countries to study international trade and business programs, while President Miller visited Estonia to learn how the country achieved top Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Programme for International Student Assessment (OECD PISA) educational rankings despite limited funding, noting that educators at all levels are fully aligned to the same strategy.
- Questions were raised regarding the internal audit reporting structure. President Miller stated that a full assessment of the college's plans, including its organizational structure and communication channels, will be conducted.

Finance Report

Mr. Howard asked Ms. DiMaggio to present the finance report, which was available in BoardEffect.

Ms. DiMaggio stated key takeaways include an increase in student revenues, driven by enrollment growth and efforts to encourage early enrollment, with more students registered in July for the fall semester. State board allocations are also up due to sustained enrollment growth over the past three years and increased funding to the technical college system by the legislature. Overall, expenses are 3% below the year-to-date budget for July but 14% above the prior year. Variances early in the fiscal year are expected, as the budget is based on a rolling five-year average, and the overall budget increased 8% from the previous fiscal year.

Building and Grounds Committee Update

Mr. Smith reported that the committee had reviewed the Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plan in full, and President Miller had also highlighted key elements in his report. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Smith recommended approval of the plan as presented, and the board approved the recommendation.

South Carolina Association for Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC) Update

Mr. Shouse noted that the SCATCC has made changes in how it presents services. This year, the new commissioner orientation will be held as a standalone event on September 18. In addition, on September 23, a joint meeting will be held with the Presidents' Council and stakeholder groups, marking the first time these entities will meet together. On October 23, SCATCC will also host a reception in New Orleans for conference attendees, with registration still open.

Commission for Higher Education (CHE) Update

Mr. Batson reported that a two-day board retreat was held in Columbia on August 6–7 to reconnect and engage new commissioners, given recent turnover. Discussions included the state's strategic goal of achieving the Ascend 60x30 program (60% degree attainment by 2030), workforce development, and the growing importance of the technical college system. Members noted the system's rising reputation statewide and nationally, with the college's recent work receiving particular praise.

Committee meetings also reviewed fund balances of pass-through programs. Additionally, it was noted that changes in accreditation may be forthcoming, as some institutions in South Carolina and other states are exploring alternatives to SACSCOC, which could have significant implications for higher education funding and standards.

Old and New Business

Chair Lattimore reminded attendees that reports are to be uploaded to the board portal in advance for access by all members. Commissioners were also reminded to make full use of the portal, noting that while approximately 50% currently use it, the goal is for 100% participation given the significant investment in the tool.

There being no other business, Chair Lattimore motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hackl seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.