



Greenville Technical College Board

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Dreisbach/Anderson Student Success Center (Building 102), Community Room (170)

Members Present

Paul Batson
James Blakely
Jo Hackl (Zoom)
Hunter Howard
Ray Lattimore
Ray Martin
Dr. Burke Royster
Coleman Shouse, Chair
Keith Smith
Kenneth Southerlin
David Stafford

Members Absent

Dean Jones

Staff Present

Eric Bedingfield
Jacqui DiMaggio
Julie Eddy
Susan Jones
Becky Mann
Dr. Keith Miller, President
Dr. Larry Miller
Lauren Simer
Wendy Walden
Ann Wright

Guests

Grant Burns, State Tech Board (Zoom)
Keith Munson, Rimom Law (Zoom)

Chair Shouse called the meeting to order at 12:22 p.m. and welcomed board members, staff, and guests. Chair Shouse announced that in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the press had been notified of the meeting though no representatives from the media were in attendance. Chair Shouse acknowledged that the agenda was posted on the GTC website and a quorum of board members was present.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the June 16, 2021, minutes as amended. Dr. Royster seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Finance Report

Mr. Southerlin asked Ms. DiMaggio to present the financial update for July 31, 2021.

Total revenues are 11% above the prior year actual and less than 1% above the year-to-date budget.

Student revenues are slightly above the year-to-date budget and 12% or approximately \$2 million above the prior year actual; as of June 30, 2021, the college has been actively recruiting and enrolling students.

County revenues are above the year-to-date budget and the prior year actual. The majority of payments are received within the first three calendar quarters of the year, and the college expects to be on target with county revenues.

State appropriations are right on track with the year-to-date budget and above the prior year actual. The college is budgeting for a slight increase in state revenues.

Auxiliary services revenue is above the year-to-date budget and very close to the prior year actual. There has been a noted increase with the Barton Bistro in operation. The bookstore has been expanded on the main campus, which should bring increased sales. Amazon-type lockers have been installed at all branch campuses so students can order online and pick up their orders the next day without entering the facility.

Other revenues are below the year-to-date budget and above the prior year. There continues to be a decrease in revenue for the Child Development Center and some of the student clinics, interest revenue is not where the college would like to see it, and rental income continues to be low because facilities have not reopened 100%.

Total expenses are very close to the year-to-date budget and the prior year actual.

Instructional expenditures are slightly above the budget and below the prior year actual. There were more faculty members working this summer, and attrition was budgeted in the administrative area.

Academic support is right on track with the year-to-date budget and below the prior year actual because expenses are a little lower this year.

Student support was budgeted significantly higher this year for more student support staff.

Operations and maintenance of plant is below the budget and the prior year actual. The staff has been working on the typical summer projects with two unexpected retirements in late June.

Administrative and general expenses are above the budget and below the prior year actual. There are attrition savings built into the budget and then moved to the functional areas that have vacancies.

Technology expenditures are below the budget and on track with the prior year due to the timing of some expenses in that area. The college will revisit the cash flow in this area.

Remissions and exemptions are above the budget and below the prior year actual. The college is a little behind in high school student registration. Even so, more of these students are paying tuition because the college has cut down on tuition waivers for this group.

Auxiliary services expenses are below the budget and the prior year actual because of the impact of inclusive access and the timing of materials and computer purchases for the Summer Semester.

Ms. DiMaggio provided an update on CARES funding. The college was able to spread out the student funding for Summer and Fall of 2021 and Spring Semester 2022; order Personal Protective Equipment; order technology items to include owl cameras to broadcast classes; re-engineer 40 online courses; and use some of the funding to help students with back balances move forward with class enrollment. The college is also looking at many options directly connected to COVID, including updating facilities with more energy-efficient HVAC systems and replacing all water fountains with water filling stations.

Ms. DiMaggio provided a brief year-end financial overview from an operational standpoint.

The forecast was approximately \$800,000 below the original revenue budget because of a significant decrease in enrollment and tuition funds.

- There was \$9.6 million budgeted for Greenville County, and the college received approximately \$10.8 million.
- The college budgeted \$17,880 from the State Tech board and received more due to increases from the state pension.
- Auxiliary services was down, but the college added CARES funding that helped.
- Other revenues were also increased with CARES funds because these funds can be used to make up for lost income.

Expenditures were below the budget almost across the board. The only areas with increases were the academic areas needing additional instructors and classroom help because of COVID and social distancing.

- Auxiliary services was over budget because of materials purchased in preparation for Fall Semester and the supply chain challenge.
- Debt service is on target.

Complete financial statements with all combined funds will be presented at the September meeting with the auditors in attendance.

A question was asked about why the revenue forecast of the "Other" line for 2021/2022 is double that of 2020/2021. Ms. DiMaggio will compile the information and send it to the board.

Ms. DiMaggio and Dr. Larry Miller are working with the President's Commission for Academic Staffing and Administration on making sure that the number of instructors compared to students is appropriate for individual academic areas and evaluating programs, success rates, graduate placement rates, and redundancies in staff and faculty areas.

President's Report

President Miller provided the following updates:

- The state passed a law this year, The Student Identification Card Suicide Prevention Act. This law requires colleges and universities to print three things on the back of student identification cards: 1) crisis text line; 2) the campus police or security number; and 3) a local suicide prevention hotline or a national teen dating abuse helpline. The law requires President Miller to inform the board that the college will comply with these requirements. Campus police have submitted several options for compliance.
- The new Arts and Health Science Building Phase 1 has received approval from the GTC board, the State Technical College board, the Commission on Higher Education (CHE), Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC), and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA). Phase 2 received approval from the GTC board in the June meeting, it was on the CHE and JBRC schedule, and it had to be pulled off primarily because of issues with planned usage of county-approved bonds. The proposed installment purchase methodology is different from the typical bond mode; therefore, it has been difficult to gain understanding at the state level of the benefits of this option. President Miller, Ms. DiMaggio, Mr. Bedingfield, Mr. Thordahl, and Mr. Love have a meeting on Friday, August 20, with State Treasurer Curtis Loftis and then with the staff of JBRC. There is a state bond alternative; however, that alternative is not as workable for the college.

State Technical College Board Update

Mr. Burns provided a State Tech board update. In July, the State Tech Board and the Council of Presidents had a joint two-day retreat at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. One of the major subjects covered was the desire of four-year institutions to add dual enrollment for high school students, affecting several technical colleges across the state. CHE had a representative at the retreat who fielded questions and concerns.

Mr. Burns stated that President Miller appeared before the State Tech board and advocated for the college and its needs, particularly financing of the new Arts and Health Sciences Building.

South Carolina Association for Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC) Update

Chair Shouse provided the SCATCC update. SCATCC has elected new leadership and is setting on a course to redefine the organization's role. The chairman, Mr. David Smalls, is organizing a retreat for the board to focus on the commission's future.

Commission of Higher Education (CHE) Update

Mr. Batson provided the CHE update. CHE had a two-day retreat, consisting primarily of presentations by NCHEMS (a data collection agency), Moody's (bonds and bond strengths in South Carolina), and Dr. Belle Wheelan (SACSCOC CEO/President).

CHE approved new majors at colleges across the state, many in cybersecurity and IT.

The Need-Based Grants Program that provides students with money for cars, rent, medical bills, and other needs, has increased from \$1,750 per year to \$3,500 per year. The college can offer the program as an additional resource.

Old and New Business

President Miller provided clarification on a recent budget proviso, which had prevented colleges and universities from requiring masks. The Supreme Court ruled that higher education institutions can mandate masks as long as the requirement applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

President Miller also provided a brief overview of how the college and the outside community utilize the Community Room and how Student Success Center staff members rotate to students rather than requiring them to go from office to office.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.