



Greenville Technical College Board

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Student Success Center, Community Room

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Dean Jones

Staff Present

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

Guests

Senator Karl Allen (Zoom)
Councilman Lynn Ballard
Stacy Brandon, GT Foundation Chair (Zoom)
Representative Mike Burns
Representative Chandra Dillard
Councilman Butch Kirven
Senator Dwight Loftis
Mike McMillan, The Greenville Journal
Keith Munson, Rimon Law
Representative Garry Smith
Councilman Dan Tripp
Senator Ross Turner (Zoom)

Chair Shouse called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. and welcomed board members, staff, and distinguished guests. Chair Shouse announced that in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the press had been notified of the meeting, and there was one media visitor, Mr. Mike McMillan, with the Greenville Journal. Chair Shouse acknowledged that the agenda was posted on the GTC website, and a quorum of board members was present.

Update to County Council and Legislative Delegation

President Miller echoed Chair Shouse's sentiments of appreciation to the County Council and the legislative delegation for their strong support of the college and its mission.

President Miller expressed thanks to the County Council and the legislative delegation for their important role and support in the college's renovation and transformation of the new Dreisbach Anderson Student Success Center, housing all student services in one central location, including the services provided at the Admissions and Registration Center at McAlister Square.

President Miller introduced Dr. Knowles to talk about the college's accomplishments in student services.

Dr. Knowles briefly highlighted three examples of programs and initiatives to help students start, stay, and succeed at the college.

- The African American Male Scholars Initiative (AAMSI) started in 2019 through the generous donation of local donors to close African American male students' achievement gaps compared to other students. To date, 24 AAMSI students graduated with a certificate or an associate degree; 23 made the dean's list (GPA of at least 3.0), and one made the President's List (GPA of 4.0). The college predicts the AAMSI students to retain at a rate of 60%, which exceeds the retention rate for white male students (56%) and other African American male students not participating in AAMSI (53%).
- The Title III "360 Institute" is funded by a Title III federal grant designed to strengthen institutions. The first cohort of student scholars has gone through orientation, registered for Spring 2022, and will be engaged in on-campus internships during the Spring semester. The college got accepted into a national initiative, Hope Center, where members collaborate to assess, analyze, and make decisions about how institutions around the country help students on campus navigate things like food insecurity and housing insecurity. More than 100 students and approximately 15 families participate in a Culture of Care with hands-on poverty simulations to understand firsthand what students go through outside the classroom, impacting their experiences.
- Established in October 2019, the Center for Collegiate Recovery is for students and other college community members in active recovery from drugs and alcohol. The college is one of three institutions to receive the DAODAS grant-funded through July 2024 for \$585,000. Since its establishment, the Center has held more than 1200 community engagements, ten statewide engagements, and a special appreciation dinner on campus for 75 exceptionally involved partners. The Center has served 57 students in active recovery since 2019, 14 alumni, more than 200 faculty/staff, and is currently serving 19 students. The students in the program have an average GPA of 3.23. The program is available on all of the college campuses.

Dr. Larry Miller talked about partnership initiatives from the Learning and Workforce Development division.

Early College

- Partnership with T-Mobile headquarters out of Washington State and Greenville County Schools is a 54 credit hour full stack certificate program that students can start in high school and complete in high school or the 13th year with the college. At that point, the student can interview for jobs with T-Mobile earning \$54,000 a year. There are 13 students in the inaugural first semester with T-Mobile.

- Partnership with Greenville County Schools to pay tuition for all the college's dual enrollment students. Enrollment continues to rise, with the college currently serving approximately 1700 dual enrollment students.
- The college offers an accelerated program to the Greenville Tech charter high school where students start in the ninth grade second semester to be on a pathway to finish their associate's degree in four years while in high school. There are approximately 19 students in the program's first year.
- President Miller stated that Dr. Larry Miller and his staff are working on pilot programs for dual enrollment/early college in the occupational programs, which necessitates outside requirements.
- Dr. Larry Miller stated that the college is moving and expanding the HVAC and industrial electricity program in partnership with all dual enrollment partners.

Healthcare – Helping meet critical workforce needs.

- Partnership with SCWorks, Greenville County, and Prisma Health to help meet critical workforce needs. Within three weeks of finding out about the EMT shortage, the college created a cohort of 21 people not employed and interested in an EMT career. As a result, EMS Academy graduated 12 skilled EMS workers working and serving the community within three months. Prisma is now directly running the program that continues to grow, and the college has invested in more faculty capacity in the EMS program to continue to meet that shortage.
- Partnering with Greenville County to do a needs assessment around a potential bachelor's degree in supervision and management.
- The college graduated five students from the state's first applied bachelor's degree in advanced manufacturing technology. Walking at the December commencement, three were promoted, and two are currently interviewing for promotions.

Culinary – Helping industry rebound by creating the skilled culinary and hospitality workers needed now.

- Completed a successful program reaccreditation with no findings. The accreditors were impressed that an institution like the college is offering a program of this caliber for approximately \$5,000 a year, competing with on par and above notable culinary institutions at \$70,000 a year.
- Three CHI students participated in a cooking competition at the Poinsett Club with scholarships as prizes, and all three students received a scholarship.
- There was a BBQ cookoff at CHI between the noncredit culinary program and the credit culinary program.
- President Miller hosted a Chaine des Rotisseurs dinner that made the cover of the Greenville News.
- The job placement rate is 83%, with approximately 40 students placed this term in the Quick Jobs program.

Ms. Wright talked about the Greenville Tech Foundation and how its many donors have allowed the college and its students to continue moving forward even in a challenging year.

- There are 184 fully endowed scholarship funds and 211 temporarily restricted funds. The endowed funds for the Foundation have doubled in the last five years from approximately \$10 million to over \$20 million.

- Eight hundred eighty-six students qualified for a Foundation scholarship, 420 students received a scholarship, and approximately 500 students qualified for a scholarship but did not because there were not enough funds. The Foundation awarded a little over \$420,000 in scholarships.
- The Foundation established a student emergency needs fund for students with life situations that might otherwise prevent them from attending college. The Foundation provided \$75,000 to 165 students for things outside of tuition, i.e., rent, utilities, car repairs, medical care, books/kits, course materials, insurance, etc. Major donors for the student emergency needs fund are Greenville Women Giving, John I. Smith Charities, and Darwin and Susan Cline.
- Donors made a difference with donations for funding AAMSI, welding equipment, financial literacy, Quick Jobs scholarships, Caring Corner, classroom aviation, STEM Classroom/Arts & Health Sciences, patio and conversations rooms/Dreisbach Anderson Student Success Center, endowed scholarships, and student emergency needs.
- With over 80 sponsors for the Workforce Development Salute, \$230,000 was raised to help support the Foundation's operations; this results in the Foundation not having to use the endowed scholarship gifts for operations or administrative costs. Fluor, Trehel Corporation, and the Truist Foundation were honored.
- The Foundation owns student housing on the Barton Campus, the college owns the land, and RISE is on contract to manage the facility. Built in 2006, 121 units serve 438 students when it is full. The current occupancy is approximately 70%; 90% occupancy is needed in order for it not to be a financial liability for the Foundation. A plan was developed first to purchase the land from the college, and the Foundation worked through the state approval process in August 2021 to list the property on the state procurement site, and secured a winning bid from Grace Church. Grace Church has an active program in affordable housing with a personal care team assigned to each person. A signed purchase agreement with Grace Church is now in the due diligence period, with an anticipated closing sometime in the first quarter of 2022. Opportunities are going forward for partnerships and other initiatives between the college and Grace Church. Grace Church will honor student leases until the expiration in May 2022.
- The Foundation will venture into a capital campaign in 2022 and 2023 to raise approximately \$13 million, \$6 million for the new arts and health sciences building, and \$7 million for student access and success. The Foundation did a planning study with more than 35 key community leaders and donors interviewed with approximately \$5 million identified in support of the campaign.

President Miller provided highlights on the County Council and the legislative delegation support and how their support allows the college to move forward.

- Support of the Governor's \$17 million initiative, Workforce Scholarships for the Future, is a pilot program that allows students to pay zero tuition in Spring Semester 2022 at any of the 16 state technical colleges. The \$17 million initiative is significant; however, it is not as substantial when split between 16 technical colleges and their students. The technical colleges were given several options for applying the money to students in career programs where there is a high need for skilled workers; the college also chose to waive tuition for students to transfer to a university. This option will cost the college an additional amount of approximately \$5 million for Spring 2022.
- Huge thanks for the support of the budget proviso that eliminates adjunct rehiring.
- Support for funding the new 125,000 square-foot arts and health sciences facility and huge thanks to the County Council for approving the funding mechanism in 2019. The college recently completed all approvals and should break ground at the end of 2022. The building will

replace the University Transfer building built in 1969, where most students attending the Barton Campus go for the general education courses. It will also replace the health sciences building.

The college will celebrate 60 years in 2022; many buildings were constructed in the 1960s. The college is developing a new ten-year master plan to include the new arts and health sciences facility and other critical needs.

Dr. Larry Miller talked about apprenticeships/partnerships with the college. Training is provided to the faculty on CNC machinery by vendors like KUK and many of the advanced manufacturing partners. A new collaboration is underway for the new arts and health sciences facility for lab equipment.

There was also a conversation about zero tuition. The qualifications laid out by the Governor's Office for access to the \$17 million are that students coming out of high school must maintain a 2.0 GPA and must be working either part-time or full-time. If not working, the students must complete 100 hours of community service or a financial literacy course.

Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Shouse excused County Council and delegation members before the board presented the motion to approve the November 17, 2021, minutes, and County Council and delegation members left.

Ms. Hackl made a motion to approve the November 17, 2021, minutes as amended. Mr. Batson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Finance Report

Ms. DiMaggio presented the finance report.

Revenues are up approximately 6% over the prior year actual and 4% above the budget.

Student revenues are approximately 4% above the budget and the prior year actual.

County revenues are significantly above the prior year actual and budget.

State appropriations are on target with the budget and above the prior year actual.

There are improvements in Auxiliary Services with increasing sales at the book store and the Bistro Café. Having the book store accessible on the main campus has made a significant difference for students, along with vending machines and Amazon-type lockers on the branch campuses.

Other revenues are above the budget and the prior year actual. The college is seeing this area rebound.

Total expenses are on track with the budget and above the prior year actual.

Instructional expenses are above the budget and similar to the prior year actual. As for the timing of some projects, the college could push some projects forward if needed.

Academic support is on budget and above the prior year actual because of some hires (advisors) in that area.

Student support is under budget due to some unexpected resignations and retirements in that area.

Operations and maintenance of plant are below the budget and struggling with resignations and pending retirements.

Administrative and general expenses are above the prior year actual and below the budget primarily because of timing differences. The staff has been decreased by approximately 20. As part of the

President's Commission on academic staffing and administration, as turnovers occur on the academic side, Dr. Larry Miller saves money and strategically increases salaries where necessary to make the college more competitive in the marketplace to retain faculty and hire in the needed areas.

Technology expenses are above the budget and the prior year actual. The college is making intentional expenditures by hiring a security specialist and multiple projects to improve redundancy so that no data is lost and to ensure a safe environment. The college is also gearing up for the new ERP system.

Remissions and exemptions are on track with the prior year actual and the budget. Because of additional financial aid for students, the college did not have to use remissions and exemptions funds. Waivers are down, giving the college a little flexibility to have more high school students.

Auxiliary services are slightly below the budget and the prior year actual because the staff has been back, there is no duplication of book stores, and the costs of goods have decreased because of inclusive access. Inclusive access is a lower-cost product with a lower margin; however, it is beneficial to the students.

At the board's request in the November meeting, Ms. DiMaggio prepared a comparison of auxiliary services revenues and expenses to see how the college is doing. Compared to the budget and the prior year actual, revenues are higher, and costs are very close to budget. The college is moving in the right direction.

Capital expenditures are below the budget and the prior year. The state provided funding again this year for high-demand equipment, and a significant amount of the HEERF funding is used for operations and maintenance of plant, such as using HVAC systems. The college is using federal and state dollars before using college dollars. Some funding is also being used for tuition that state dollars will not cover.

Debt service is budgeted at zero for this period because the one debt service the college has for the operating budget is not due until April.

South Carolina Association for Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC) Update

Chair Shouse provided a SCATCC update.

Initial funding for the Workforce Scholarships for the Future comes from the governor's discretionary fund and supports the initiative through Spring Semester 2022. Before the success of that initial semester can be proven, \$124 million in additional funding must be requested from the state legislature in order to sustain the scholarships through June 2024. The State Tech System, SCATCC, and individual colleges will play a role in acquiring that support, with State Tech developing a suggested message that Area Commission members can use in approaching legislators to request additional funding.

Commission of Higher Education (CHE) Update

Mr. Batson provided a CHE update.

- CHE met earlier this month and approved 13 projects across the state.
- CHE spent a good portion of the meeting discussing the REACH Act. CHE's main requirement is that all universities require all students to get a least three credit hours in American History, civics, or government to meet specific standards before graduating. In addition, all students must read the Constitution in its entirety, the Declaration of Independence, five federalist

papers, and one essay or article on African American history. The legislature has put CHE in charge of ensuring that all colleges develop the courses.

- There are some bills out that will affect education. One call for concern is a proposed bill to eliminate tenure in all public institutions and colleges.

Old and New Business

Mr. Stafford retired from Michelin after 38 years of service.

Mr. Howard thanked President Miller and the presenters for an outstanding presentation and a job well done.

There being no old or new business, Mr. Martin made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Royster seconded the motions. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.