

**Minutes of the Meeting
Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission
August 12, 2025
Via Microsoft Teams**

Members Present:

Joe T. Branyon, Jr.
Fedrick D. Cohens
Dr. Robert J. Farrar
J. David McMillan

John G. Cassidy
Byron P. David
Robert P. Hucks
Orrie E. West

Dr. Marilyn Fore, President
Cathy Myers, Administrative Coordinator

Members Absent: None

Guests:

Dr. Melissa Batten, Harold Hawley, Shannon Detzler, Dr. Lori Heafner, Nicole Hyman, Amanda King, Dr. Kelly Perritt, Terry Quaresimo, Jackie Snyder, and Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks

Media:

None

The Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission held its bimonthly meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

A written notice was provided to all media in Horry and Georgetown Counties advising the date, time, and place of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Chairman Branyon called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll call was conducted by Ms. Myers. Chairman Branyon asked for acceptance of the agenda and approval of the June 17, 2025 minutes. ***Motion by Mr. Hucks, seconded by Mr. Cassidy and carried to accept the agenda and approve the June 17, 2025 minutes.***

(Vote 8 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

Updates

Budget Status Report:

Vice President Hawley reported on the current budget status report ending July 31, 2025.

Capital Projects and Major Renovations:

Conway Campus:

Marilyn Murphy Fore Health Professions Training Complex – Designs being developed with project to be completed in time for Spring 2027 classes.

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Signage – Awaiting Santee Cooper approval for encroachment. Timeline is established after Santee Cooper approval.

Grand Strand Campus:

Replace Sidewalks – Seeking project approval from County Transportation Committee (CTC) Civil firm is developing construction drawings and cost estimates.

Georgetown Campus:

Marine Technology Institute – Bids to be solicited in early August and contract awarded in early September. Construction is estimated to begin in late September or early October with project being completed in late December or early January.

Enrollment Update:

Dr. Batten reported the current Fall 2025 Overall Headcount is 7953 and Overall FTE is 5193.

President's Report

President Fore met with Bruce Fennell and AVP Brandon Haselden to discuss potential opportunities for restarting the Heavy Equipment Operator program. Follow-up meeting with Doug Wendel, Executive Administrator for A.O. Hardee and Son, Inc.

The College is exploring the possibility of establishing a site in northern Horry County to offer classes and has met with Representative Kevin Hardee, County Administrator, and members of Horry County Council to discuss this opportunity. The College is planning to host a two-day community forum in Loris to engage community interest.

President Fore had a productive meeting with Dr. James Winebrake, the newly appointed President of Coastal Carolina University, to discuss future plans and potential partnerships between the institutions.

President Fore shared the licensure exam report, noting the strong success pass rates of first-time test takers. HGTC had an overall 91% for exams taken April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Foundation Report

The Foundation report stands as written. Additionally, Ms. Detzler commended the Dedication Ceremony of the Nursing and Health Sciences Institute as an extraordinary celebration, leaving a lasting impression on all who participated.

President's Cabinet Reports:

- Vice President Batten's report was presented and stands as submitted, reflecting ongoing updates and work within her division.
- Vice President Hawley's report was presented and stands as written, highlighting current updates and work underway in his division.
- Vice President Heafner reported that HGTC was awarded a five-year grant totaling \$1.3 million to support the TRIO Elite Scholars program, which assists first-generation, disabled, and income-eligible students.
- Ms. Hyman provided an update on current media coverage, reporting a total of 676 media mentions across news outlets and social media. During the period, 19 media alerts were issued, with the estimated monetary value of coverage reaching \$2.3 million and a potential audience reaching 255 million people.
- Dr. Perritt's report stands as submitted, reflecting the ongoing work and updates from her area.
- Mr. Quaresimo's report stands as presented, providing a comprehensive overview of current initiatives and ongoing activities within his area of responsibility.
- Vice President Snyder reported that she, along with other College representatives, met with the General Manager of the DeBordieu Club to discuss opportunities for developing partnerships with the Culinary Arts and Golf Management programs.
- Executive Vice President Wilbanks' report stands as written. Additionally, Dr Wilbanks highlighted a father-son duo who achieved the unique milestone of graduating at the same time, underscoring the College's role in supporting students across multiple generations.

Faculty Assembly Report:

In Professor Luce's absence, the Faculty Assembly report will stand as written.

Upcoming Events:

- SCATCC New Trustee Training on September 16, 2025 in Columbia
- State/Presidents/SCATCC Board/Trustees Joint Meeting on September 23, 2025 at Saluda Shoals
- Area Commission Board Meeting on October 14, 2025 at Conway Campus.
- ACCT Leadership Congress October 22-25, 2025 in New Orleans
- Area Commission Holiday Dinner on December 2, 2025 at Dunes Club

Executive Session

Motion by Ms. West, seconded by Dr. Farrar and carried to go into Executive Session at 1:58 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and/or contractual arrangements/negotiations.

(Vote 8 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

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Motion by Mr. Hucks, seconded by Mr. Cassidy and carried to come out of Executive Session at 2:12 p.m.

(Vote 8 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

Motion by Mr. Hucks, seconded by Mr. Cohens, and carried that in accordance with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) regulations and guidelines that we accept the Area Commission Self Evaluation as presented.

(Vote 8 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by Mr. David, seconded by Ms. West and carried to adjourn at 2:15 p.m.

(Vote 8 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

Tommy Branyon, Chairman

Orrie E. West, Secretary

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy L. Myers
Administrative Coordinator

Date:_____